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A Weekly Journal of the Chemical and Drug Trades
and of
British Pharmacists throughout the Empire.
ESTABLISHED 1859.

The CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST is in circulation and reputation the leading journal addressing the chemical and drug trades in the British Empire and other countries in the Old and New Worlds. It is the official journal of nineteen Chemists' Societies in Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, and the West Indies.

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REGARDING THAT BOOM

in Overseas trade about which we have heard so much during the past year. Have you had your full share of the enormous increase in exports? If not, the opportunity is still before you, and the man who can make it easy for you is the Export Merchant Shipper. He takes all the trouble off your shoulders, so it is worth while to cultivate him. This you can do by giving full particulars of your goods and your brands in a prominent advertisement in

THE EXPORT MERCHANT SHIPPERS' ISSUE

of

THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST,

March 8, 1913.

SUMMARY.

Being a first glance at the articles and events reported in this Issue.

Articles and Communications.

The Permutit water-softening process is described on p. 65.

Interesting observations on paints were communicated to the Society of Chemical Industry in London on Monday (p. 65).

The manner in which commissions are paid to chemists' assistants is explained on p. 68, where several other interesting practical matters are referred to.

Sir Henry Norman's ideas in regard to the Delve case are controverted in a note on p. 60, where we quote the Pharmaceutical Society's declaration that it established the principle *de minimis non curat lex*.

The demand for assistants is one of the topics discussed by "Xrayser II." He considers that doctors' dispensers are not to be among the unemployed, and gives the reasons (p. 49).

Mr. Henry Walker, Publisher of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, has attained his jubilee. We give an account of his business career, and notes on the jubilee celebration (pp. 51-52).

Mr. R. C. Cowley, F.C.S., has continued his observations on the alkali-citrates of bismuth, the result being embodied in a communication to the Australian Pharmaceutical Conference, which is printed on p. 34.

National Health Insurance.

A cheap prescription-filing system is figured and described on p. 34.

The late hours' fee for dispensing at Tynemouth is not to be taken out of the floating 6d. (p. 46).

A Committee has been appointed to inquire into the extension of medical benefit to Ireland (p. 47).

The Insurance Commissioners have refused to allow the Lancashire Insurance Committee to pay for dressings and appliances not in the tariff (p. 67).

We reply to a large number of pricing problems, points about the supply of articles, the rights of doctors, and other questions in the section beginning on p. 41.

By questions in the House of Commons an effort is being made to create sympathy for traders who are not legally qualified to be put on the dispensing panels (p. 46).

The sixth "Epoch" article, "Limitation," deals with apothecaries' assistants' "right" and the need for new companies conforming to the 1908 Act before being placed on the panel (p. 50).

News of the Week.

Bangalore is to get new poisons regulations (p. 38).

The Apothecaries' Assistants' examination results are on p. 36.

The formation of more drug-store companies is reported on p. 40.

Messrs. Ingram & Royle have taken action against a shipping company respecting the loss of 1,135 cases of mineral-water on board ship (p. 39).

At the Council-meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society on Wednesday the Registrar's annual report was presented. The Council have passed another resolution adding diethyl-barbituric acid to the Poisons Schedule (p. 57).

The obituary columns are heavy this week, and include the names of Lord Ilkerton, M.D.; Mr. D. N. Petrides, a leading sponge merchant; Mr. A. W. Waring, a well-known City chemist; and Mr. E. Yewdall, of Leeds (pp. 57-58).

In the ringworm case reported on p. 38 we learn as we close for press that the jury found the child died from mercurial poisoning. There was a misunderstanding of directions on the part of Mrs. Willmott. The jury recommended medical men to give more definite instructions on the use of remedies.

Trade and Market Matters.

Few changes have occurred in the markets, business being very quiet for the time of the year; the wholesale drug-trade, however, remains brisk. Cream of tartar, cocoa-butter, glucose, and petroleum are more or less dearer. Lemon oil, quinine (seconds), copper sulphate, ammonia sulphate, and antimony are easier. A good assortment of drugs was offered at auction (p. 61).

Organic Salts of Bismuth with Alkalies.

By R. C. Cowley, Ph.C.

Communicated to the Australian Pharmaceutical Conference held at Melbourne in January.

At the meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science held in Sydney (see *C. & D.* March 4, 1911, index folio 314), the author made a statement to the effect that bismuth citrate acts as a monobasic acid, giving a well-defined end reaction when titrated with solution of ammonia, using litmus-paper as an indicator.

Alkaline Bismutho-citrates.—Ammonia is not the only base capable of forming a compound with bismuth citrate. All other alkalies behave in a similar manner, and it is quite easy to prepare bismutho-citrates of sodium, potassium, or lithium, by titrating freshly precipitated bismuth citrate with hydroxides, carbonates, or bicarbonates of these alkalies. The solution on evaporation yields compounds which are soluble in water. The sodium compound dissolves more readily in water containing a little glycerin. It was suggested that these compounds would find a use in medicine. Bismutho-citrate of lithium is already on the market, and is recommended as a remedy for rheumatic gout. The author anticipates that the sodium compound will be extensively employed in medicine. A solution containing the same quantity of bismuth as the liquor bismuthi A.P.F., approximately equivalent to 77 grains of bismutho-citrate of sodium per litre, was prepared in the College of Pharmacy, Brisbane, in January 1912, and it is still in a perfectly sound condition. In preparing it is recommended to add a solution of sodium carbonate to the bismuth citrate, and heat to expel the carbon dioxide. An excess of the alkaline carbonate would precipitate the bismuth from solution. Hydroxide of sodium would act equally well. The author thinks that this compound is preferable to the bismutho-citrate of ammonia for use in medicine.

Alkaline Bismutho-tartrates.—Like the closely-related members of the same group of elements—viz., arsenium and antimony, bismuthyl tartrate forms soluble compounds with alkalies.

Bismuthyl tartrate acts as a monobasic acid. The alkaline compounds correspond exactly with tartar emetic. The sodium compound may be prepared as follows:

Bismuth subnitrate	...	70	grams
Sodium potassium tartrate	...	64.5	grams
Nitric acid (sp. gr. 1.420)	...	57	c.c.
Sodium bicarbonate	...	57	grams

Dissolve the bismuth subnitrate in the nitric acid diluted with a similar volume of water, add the sodium potassium tartrate dissolved in a little water, then the sodium carbonate also in solution; heat to expel the carbon dioxide; filter, wash the precipitate until free from nitrates. To the washed precipitate add 250 c.c. of normal solution of sodium hydroxide.

This forms a perfectly clear neutral solution. For convenience of anyone preparing a solution of sodium bismutho-tartrate, the above proportions will make a solution containing the same quantity of bismuth as the liquor bismuthi A.P.F. The alkaline bismutho-tartrates have been recommended for the preparation of bismuth and pepsin mixtures, but they do not appear to possess any particular advantage over the bismutho-citrates, and are never likely to take their place in medicine.

Alkaline Bismutho-racemates.—Racemic acid, as might be supposed from its relation to tartaric acid, readily forms alkaline bismutho-racemates. They are only of interest in the laboratory.

Other Organic Bismuth Compounds.—Bismuth malate, bismuth oxalate, bismuth succinate, bismuth phthalate, bismuth camphorate, are all easily-prepared compounds of bismuth, but in no case do they form soluble compounds with alkalies. The behaviour of bismuth malate towards alkalies is interesting, as its relationship to tartaric acid would lead one to anticipate that it would form soluble compounds with alkalies similar to the tartrates.

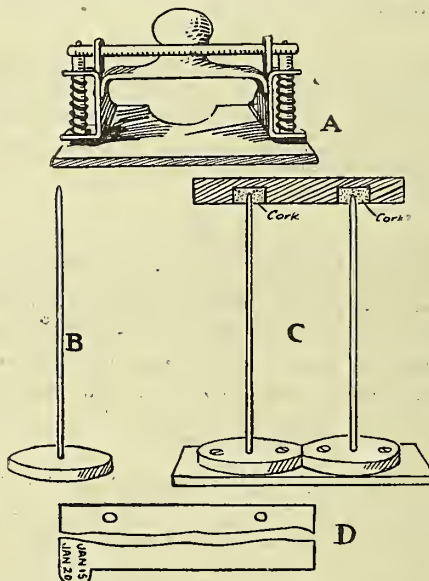
Ideas on Insurance Dispensing

The Editor pays for contributions to this column, especially for ideas which have been found beneficial or useful in working the chemists' part of the Insurance Medical Benefit, and in solving difficulties which arise in connection with it.

A Shilling Prescriptions Filing System.

The following description of a simple and inexpensive device for filing Insurance prescriptions will save expense in dispensing:

Get a punch as illustration A, which is used for the ordinary system of filing papers, also six counter files as illustration B. The punch costs about eightpence and the files fourpence halfpenny the half-dozen from any wholesale stationer. Use two of the stand files for keeping the



prescriptions as they come in—form A on one, form B on the other. From the others make two double files by screwing to a block of wood, as illustration C. Take care that the wires exactly fit the holes made by the punch in the prescriptions. Then finish off the tops by boring $\frac{3}{8}$ -in. holes with brace and bit in a square piece of wood, into which force a good piece of cork. By this means the head of the file is less liable to be forced off when referring to back prescriptions.

Having prepared the files, you are ready to pack away the prescriptions. Take form A first. Each week (or each day if there are many scripts) lift off from the counter file, punch holes (which can be done a dozen at a time), then slip on to one of the double files. These can be priced out there and then, or left for any odd moment during the week, making account of the total as you go along on the card kept on the file for the purpose. Personally, I think it better to price-out each week, and enter the total on the card, then at the end of the quarter it shows the exact statement of account to be sent to the Insurance Committee.

Form B is to file the duplicates which have to be kept for reference. Take off from the counter file, punch, then arrange *alphabetically*, and slip over the double file. Cut a thin piece of card (white) slightly larger than the form, and with thumb index tab as illustration D. Enter on tab the date of the week, say, January 15 to January 20. Next week's tab will be cut a little higher, and so on to the end of the quarter. All you have to do then is to slip off the file, thread with strong thin string, and tie tightly. Stick a strip of thick brown paper up the edge at the back, glue into brown-paper covers, and label, stating the quarter. There you have a prescription-book in which (given the date) you can at once turn up a prescription, even if months back, while the cost is nothing except time.

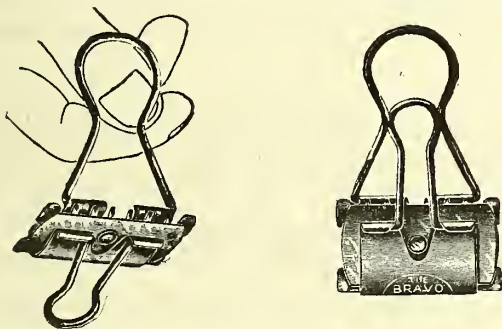
I use a dust cover over B file, made of two thin sheets of card strapped together at bottom and right side (left hand has holes punched and secures it to file), thus forming a pocket in which I keep carbon paper and pencil, which are handy for copying script when doctor orders "Rep. mist."—*J. Barker (Leicester)*.

TRADE NOTES.

NEW LIST.—Mr. Vincent Wood, 4 Albion Place, Blackfriars Bridge, London, S.E., is issuing this week a new price-list of surgical appliances of his own manufacture. It is a very complete list and includes elastic woven goods, supporting belts, chest expanders, trusses, suspensory bandages, chest protectors, hot-water bottles, and piece-rubber goods. A copy will be sent on application to any chemist who has not already received one.

"GREEN SEAL BORAX" is a new line that Messrs. F. Newbery & Sons, Ltd., Charterhouse Square, London, E.C., have, as distributing agents, just put on the P.A.T.A. list to retail at 3d. and 6d., yielding the retailer the Insurance Act rate of profit (*i.e.*, 33½ per cent.) in a fraction of the time occupied by a "script." The packages are singularly attractive and novel. Each contains a papier-mâché spoon and neatly-printed directions. The borax is "extra-refined," and a showcard is given to assist sales.

"BRAVO" SAFETY-RAZOR.—Mr. R. J. Reuter, 5-7 Denman Stret, London, W., has introduced the razor illustrated in the engravings. It opens and closes as easily and simply as a paper clip, as the second figure shows, and it



retails at a shilling—we spell it, as if we said 1s. some might think we meant 1l. 1s., and the major part had dropped out. The holder takes any safety-razor blades, and the wholesale price is 8s. per doz.

BUSINESS CHANGES.

Notes for this section sent to the Editor should be authenticated, and must not be in the nature of advertisements.

MESSRS. A. L. STARLEY & Co. have recently opened a drug-store at 129 North Street, Bedminster, Bristol.

MESSRS. STEDMAN & Co., chemists, have removed their business from 67 to 87 St. Thomas Street, Weymouth.

MR. A. E. KENNEDY has purchased the business of Mr. J. W. Cass, pharmacist, at 31 High Street, Halesowen, Worcs.

MR. ALFRED H. M. PURSE, Burn Park Pharmacy, Sunderland, has removed his business to larger premises in Durham Road, directly opposite.

MR. H. W. SELBY, chemist, Sussex Road Pharmacy, Hayward's Heath, has removed to larger premises at Sussex Square, Hayward's Heath.

MR. S. O. GREENHILL, pharmacist, late of St. Leonard's Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, has opened a high-class pharmacy at 6 Boltro Road, Hayward's Heath, Sussex.

MR. F. MALONE-BARRETT, chemist and druggist, has purchased the business of Mr. T. W. Cleave, chemist and druggist, at St. Mary's Road, Ealing, London, W.

MR. E. MERCK, of Darmstadt, announces that his London office and warehouse have been removed to 66 Crutched Friars, E.C. (next door to the old address). His telephone number is now Avenue 4790 (two lines), and telegraphic address "Chemerk Fen, London." The business will continue under the management of Mr. Fredk. Boehm, assisted by Mr. F. Schaer.

ENGLISH AND WELSH NEWS.

When sending newspapers to the Editor please mark the item of news to which you desire to call his attention.

Brevities.

Mr. Charles Barclay, chemist, South Glencraig, has been appointed to the treasurership of the Glencraig Institute.

The St. George's Guardians, London, on January 29, agreed to the recommendation of the Infirmary Committee to raise the salary of the dispenser by 20l. per annum.

The Stainland and Holywell Green (Yorks) Co-operative Society have appointed a committee to consider the advisability of opening a drug-department at the Stores.

In rearranging the salaries of the Poor-law doctors the Christchurch (Hants) Board of Guardians have decided that in future medicines and drugs will be paid for by the Board.

Plans on behalf of Boots, Ltd., for the conversion of two shops at Nos. 53 and 55 Seaforth Road, Seaforth, Liverpool, into single premises, were approved by the Waterloo-Seaforth Urban Council on February 3.

The Morley Co-operative Society reports that during the past quarter 24½ per cent. of the supplies in the drug department was obtained from the Co-operative Wholesale Society, and the remainder from private firms.

The premises of Pinch & Co., chemists, 5 Cheap Street, Bath, were broken into on February 2. The proprietor, Mr. Hedley Coe, pharmacist, on opening the pharmacy in the evening, found that considerable wanton damage had been done.

At the weekly meeting of the Twickenham Literary Society on January 28, Mr. S. W. Bunker, B.Sc., of the laboratory staff of Messrs. Wright, Layman & Umney, Ltd., lectured on "Perfumes: their Extractions and Synthesis."

The question of granting applications for poison-licences to assistants of persons licensed for the sale of agricultural poisons is to be discussed at a special meeting of the Lancaster Town Council. The information which has been sought on the matter is now ready.

Sir William A. Tilden communicates to "The Chemical World" a letter from Sir Humphry Davy to Professor W. T. Brande. It is dated August 1818, and is written from Idria, where Sir Humphry was staying. Reference is made in the letter to several chemical matters.

The Public Health Committee of Lambeth Borough Council report that they have made arrangements with the Governors of St. Thomas's Hospital, London, S.E., for the establishment of a branch dispensary in the out-patients' department free of cost to the borough.

A verbatim report in the "Hampshire Chronicle" of last week of an address to men preached by the Bishop of Thetford in Winchester Cathedral on January 20 was made by a local pharmacist, Mr. R. A. Rowlands, who is on the staff of Boots, Ltd.

Alfred Rickell, a workman in the employ of Messrs. Bleasdale, Ltd., wholesale druggists, Colliergate, York, was caught in the grinding machinery on January 31. His left leg was drawn between some cog-wheels and severely crushed. The unfortunate man was conveyed to the York County Hospital, where it was found necessary to amputate the limb.

An article on "The Eyesight of the Nation" in the "Standard" of February 3 gives the views of Colonel T. Davies Sewell, Clerk of the Spectacle-makers' Company, regarding the proposal to spend 30,000l. on a Central Optical Institute. He states that the authorities should beware lest a practical mistake is made in carrying out the scheme. The science school and the workshop should be run side by side, so that knowledge acquired in the school could be applied directly in the workshop.

Society of Apothecaries of London.

The following candidates were, at the January assistants' examination, granted the certificate of qualification to act as an assistant to an apothecary in compounding and dispensing medicines. "The certificate does not convey the right to assume any title on the part of the person to whom it is granted":

J. Andrews, L. Bertie, R. C. T. Bull, H. B. Curragh, M. E. de Russett, M. A. Ewen, I. M. Fentiman, V. I. Garford, D. Gibbs, K. M. Gibson, I. Goskar, M. Gotelee, H. E. Haigh, M. G. Halbittel, D. A. D. Hickie, S. A. Ingram, F. A. Jackson, M. B. Jephson, E. M. Jones, G. J. Kilgour, M. A. Laundon, W. Lee, M. J. Morgan, D. B. Nickson, D. I. Partington, A. Purvis, D. E. Ranshaw, F. E. Richards, F. M. Saxton-Franklin, D. Schuhmacher, C. L. Shann, D. Taylor, R. Thornton, H. H. L. Vines, E. A. Willson, I. K. Wilson.

Bradford Notes.

Mr. J. J. Boosen, chemist, Idle, Vice-President of the Bradford Chamber of Trade, is taking a health trip to Madeira.

Mr. W. K. Jackson, pharmacist, has been elected a member of the Executive Committee of the Bradford Chamber of Trade.

The representatives of Bradford pharmacists and their wives were guests at a commemoration dinner given at the Bradford Town Hall last Friday by the Chairman of the local Insurance Committee—viz. Mr. M. Firth (President of the Bradford Chemists' Association) and Mrs. Firth, Mr. and Mrs. D. S. Priestley, and Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Gregory.

Birmingham Notes.

There is an extraordinary demand for lady dispensers by suburban medical men.

The counter trade for drugs has become very quiet. The public prefer at present to get their prescriptions from the panel doctor and take it to be dispensed by the panel chemist.

The local Pharmacopeia, which is to see light shortly, for the use of the twin-professions working under the Insurance Act, is edited by Mr. Ernest Osborne, a successful medical practitioner in one of the suburbs. He was formerly a pharmacist, and was trained at Messrs. Bellamy & Wakefield's.

Mr. George Cadbury, of the Bournville Cocoa Works, was suddenly taken ill at the works on Friday last with a paralytic seizure. Medical aid was immediately summoned, and during the evening the well-known philanthropist regained consciousness, and was reported by the doctors to be in a fairly satisfactory condition.

Liverpool Notes.

To cope with Insurance dispensing locally, the various branches of Messrs. Boots, Ltd., are opening in the evening for extended hours—i.e., until 9 P.M. instead of 8 P.M. on week-days, and on Wednesday, half-day closing, from 7 to 8.30 P.M. A new departure on their part is the opening on Sunday evenings for an hour or so.

The funeral service of Mr. F. H. O'Neill, town representative of Messrs. Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd., whose death we noted in our last issue, took place at the Highfield Congregational Church, Rock Ferry, of which place of worship he was one of the strongest supporters. The body was taken to the Ashfield Crematorium, and the ashes were deposited in the family grave at Smith-down Road Cemetery. Mr. O'Neill's efforts in aid of local movements made him as popular in Rock Ferry as he was amongst his chemist customers. He was secretary of the local bowling-green club, and it was owing to his



THE LATE F. H. O'NEILL.

arduous labours that it was opened free from debt. Mr. O'Neill left a widow, but no family.

Messrs. Boots, Ltd., are reported to be shortly opening another new branch in Great Howard Street, Liverpool. Mr. Jones, chemist and druggist, who had two shops, one at each end of this busy thoroughfare, died some time ago. Everything was sold up by auction. Several local chemists have contemplated opening in this quarter, but they have now been forestalled. The district teems with thousands of insured dockers, and there is not a single chemist in the neighbourhood.

Manchester Notes.

The influenza germ is about again, and cases of infection in Manchester are being numbered by the hundred. A well-known city practitioner attributes this to the damp atmosphere of late and the fact that the public does not realise that the complaint is infectious.

An advertisement in a local evening paper a few days ago stated: "Shop to let. Suitable for a qualified chemist. No opposition; in thickly populated district in North Manchester." Evidently estate agents are alive to the fact that under the Insurance Act there are openings for qualified chemists where unqualified persons would find some difficulty in making a living.

Contracts.

St. Pancras Borough Council.—Adcocks, for annual supplies: Soluble creosote or disinfectant fluid at 7½d. per gal., disinfectant pine fluid 10d. per gal., disinfectant pine blocks in tins 19s. 5d. per cwt., and carbolic powder at 2s. 10½d. per cwt.

Barnstaple Town Council.—Mr. F. Dyson, for disinfecting fluid at 1s. 11d. per gal.; disinfecting powder, 5s. 8d. per cwt.; carbolic acid, 1s. 10d. per gal.; and formalin tablets, 4s. 6d. per lb. Mr. G. M. Pitt, chemist, for sulphur candles at 18s. 6d. per cwt.; and Mr. R. F. Idenden, chemist, for crude carbolic acid at 1s. 1d. per gal.

Analysts' Affairs.

In Poplar last quarter all the four drugs sampled were certified as genuine.

In Bermondsey during the past quarter thirteen drug samples were submitted for analysis. All were found to be genuine.

In the County of Hertford one sample each of ammoniated tincture of quinine, eucalyptus oil and olive oil were examined last quarter and found genuine.

At Brighton last quarter samples of spirit of camphor and ginger were taken for analysis and certified to be genuine, although the ginger was of very poor quality.

The quarterly report of the Radnorshire County Analyst shows that the samples of baking-powder, magnesia, cream of tartar, health salts, and sulphur examined were found to be genuine.

The Lambeth analyst, Mr. A. H. M. Muter, F.I.C., reports that during the last quarter he analysed 605 samples, including six samples of drugs submitted for analysis. None of the drug samples were certified against.

Wine-licences.

Mr. Wm. Bytheway, of Park Avenue, Owston, was at Doncaster on February 3 granted a licence restricted to the sale of medicated wines.

The application of Mr. Frank V. Jessop, drug-vendor, Park Street, for a medicated-wine licence was refused by the Walsall Licensing Bench on February 3.

Mr. Geo. Simpson, chemist and druggist, of Paikes Street, Alnwick, was granted a medicated-wine licence at Alnwick on February 3. The application was opposed by the police.

The Newcastle-on-Tyne Licensing Bench on February 4 refused an application for a wine-licence for the premises of the Taylor's Drug Co., Ltd., 52 Grainger Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

The Newton Abbot Licensing Justices on February 4, by a majority of one, refused the application of Mr. Henry Dring, chemist, 12 Wellington Street, Teignmouth, for a licence to enable him to sell medicated wines.

At Hull Brewster Sessions on February 3, applications for medicated-wine licences made by Mr. T. G. Milburn,

of Messrs. Milburns, Ltd., chemists, Whitefriargate, and Mr. B. M. Stoakes, Ph.C., of Princes Avenue, were refused.

At the annual licensing sessions at Ottery St. Mary on February 4 Messrs. J. Hinton Lake, Ltd., chemists, applied for a licence to sell wines and spirits at their ranch establishment at Sidmouth. The applicants gave an undertaking to sell only medicated wines for invalids. The local licensed victuallers opposed the application on the ground of redundancy of licences, but the Bench granted the application.

At the Eastbourne Licensing Sessions on February 1, the Rev. H. C. Morton, Wesleyan minister, asked the Bench when would be the proper time to raise the question of chemists' licences. The Chairman said that a communication on the subject had been received, and the justices had decided that if it came to their knowledge that other than medicated wines were sold under these licences, they would consider it a breach of the conditions, and would act accordingly.

Objection was raised to the renewal of a licence for the sale of medicated wine to Mr. John T. Good, chemist and druggist, 110 Cheltenham Road, Bristol, on the ground that certain wines he sold did not come under the category. Mr. Featherley explained that the local Temperance Society objected because Mr. Good was selling a much-advertised wine called "Junora," which, it was alleged, did not come under the description of a medicated wine. Mr. Charles Waterfall, analytical chemist, testified to his analysis of this wine. It was a good wine, but he doubted if it could be rightly described as medicated wine. In cross-examination by Mr. Hedderwick, witness said he could not separate from the wine any of the lecithin ova, the medicating ingredients it was supposed to contain. He was not aware that other analysts had found in the wine lecithin ova, nor that there had been a similar case in the present in Bradford, which had been dismissed. Mr. Hedderwick contended that the wine was medicated, and that Mr. Good had not broken his pledge by selling.

Mr. John T. Good, pharmacist, in his evidence, said he sold Junora on good faith, believing that it was medicated, as described on the label. The wine was sold by other Bristol chemists having a wine-licence. In reply to the Magistrates' Clerk, witness said he could not give an undertaking not to sell this particular wine, as it had not been proved that the wine was not medicated. The Chairman said the Magistrates had had to find as to the *na fides* of Mr. Good. They would give him the benefit of the doubt on the present occasion, but still hold him to his promise not to sell other than medicated wine. He pressed the opinion that if the matter were to be tested should be done in a broader way than at present.

From Various Courts.

The Southampton Bench last week sentenced Wm. Abley to a month's hard labour for stealing a bottle of wine and a packet of digestive tablets from the pharmacy of Mr. John J. Johns, 184 High Street, on January 23.

The Southwark Coroner (Dr. F. J. Waldo) held an inquiry into the death of a six-year-old girl on January 31. Dr. Reginald Larkin, police surgeon, said death was due to appendicitis. Preservatives in food are a common cause of appendicitis.

The Rotherhithe Coroner conducted an inquiry into the death of Rachel Wheeler, a Bermondsey widow, who died suddenly. It was stated that deceased had been taking some proprietary pills for kidney trouble. A medical man said he found in the stomach two pills which contained methylene blue. These had caused patches of inflammation as well as staining the stomach an intense blue. The Coroner said it appeared that the pills had not been issued to the deceased. A verdict of "Natural death from heart disease" was returned.

Mr. SYDNEY W. DAVIES, pharmacist, the younger brother of Messrs. Davies Bros., of Porth and Clydach, is shortly to open a new pharmacy at High Street, Gornon, Glam., under the style of Davies Bros.

IRISH NEWS.

When sending newspapers to the Editor please mark the items of news to which you desire to call his attention.

Brevities.

Mr. Robert Cambridge, J.P., druggist, has been elected a member of the committee of Carrickfergus Harbour Board.

Mr. Matthew Hedley, chief veterinary inspector to the Department of Agriculture, to whose illness a reference was made recently in this column, died on January 31.

At a recent meeting of the Dublin County Borough Insurance Committee, Alderman Dr. McWalter in the chair, a resolution was passed in favour of medical benefit being extended to Ireland.

Mr. Wilfred Wells, only son of Mr. W. F. Wells, ex-President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, passed his Junior Freshman examination last week in the University of Dublin. Mr. Wells intends reading for the Church.

Mr. R. G. Ridge, formerly with Messrs. Hamilton, Long & Co., States Apothecaries, Dublin, at their Kingstown branch, and who joined the staff of Messrs. S. Maw, Son & Sons, London, is now their Irish representative. He is now paying his first visit to Dublin in their interest.

The funeral took place on January 30 at the Old Meeting House Green, Newry, of Mrs. Margaret Connor, widow of Mr. S. Connor, L.A.H., J.P., founder of the firm of S. Connor & Sons, chemists, Hill Street, Newry. Mrs. Connor had attained a ripe old age.

Mr. James Guiler, Ph.C., Ormeau Road, Belfast, lectured on "A Trip to Switzerland" in the Ligoniel Hall, Belfast, on January 30. The lecture, which was illustrated by lantern-views, was descriptive of a holiday tour made by Mr. Guiler in the Bernese Oberland.

At a meeting of the Belfast Insurance Committee last week, the Chairman reported having interviewed a number of chemists in reference to the supply of drugs to insured persons receiving sanatorium benefit, and it was agreed that some working arrangement should be made whereby a proper supply of medicines should be available for consumptive patients throughout the city.

At Bawnboy Board of Guardians last week, a letter was read from the Local Government Board returning vouchers furnished with a view to recoupment in respect of the cost of medicines and medical and surgical appliances for use in the Bawnboy Union during the past half-year. It was pointed out that irregularities appeared in the file, and it was requested that care be taken to guard against their recurrence. Recoupment was, however, allowed in all the items.

Business Paragraphs.

The business of Messrs. Bonnar & Henderson, in Ballymena, is to be disposed of as a going concern by private treaty.

A new chemist's establishment has just been opened in Buncrana under the title of the Buncrana Drug Co., of which Mr. W. Kelly, Ph.C., has been appointed manager.

In a disastrous fire in Fermoy on January 30, considerable damage was done to the premises of Mr. J. J. Broderick, Ph.C., and one of his servants had a narrow escape.

Mr. S. P. Maloney (formerly with Messrs. Hayes, Conyngham & Robinson, Ltd., and Messrs. G. Browne, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin) has opened a new pharmacy at 87 O'Connell Street, Limerick. Mr. Maloney formerly acted as dispenser at Mercer's Hospital, Dublin.

Court Cases.

At Markethill Quarter Sessions on February 1, a claim was brought by Mr. W. J. Meredith, Ph.C., Tandragee, against the County Council of Armagh for 10*l.* compensation for malicious injury to a plate-glass window and the stock of his pharmacy caused by a man named Daniel Boyle, who was recently convicted of the offence at the assizes and sentenced to nine months' imprisonment. Judge Green gave a decree for 8*l.* 10*s.*, with costs.

At Omagh Quarter Sessions on January 31, an action was brought by Dr. Joseph Bradley, against Robert C.

Laughlin, J.P., Gortin, to recover 20*l.* for damages done to the plaintiff's surgery and its contents as a result of flooding alleged to be through the negligence of the defendant. Dr. Bradley said he formerly occupied a house in Gortin, the property of Mr. Laughlin, and had a surgery and store underneath a hall owned by the defendant. The defendant commenced pulling down the hall without giving him notice, and a few days afterwards his surgery, store, and back bedroom became flooded to a depth of six inches. Some medicines were rendered valueless, and gauzes were ruined with water. The labels were washed off the drug bottles, and it was impossible to tell one medicine from another. The defendant contended that the surgery was not flooded as a result of the alterations, but because of rain coming through a broken skylight. Judge Linehan gave a decree for 15*l.* and costs.

SCOTTISH NEWS.

When sending newspapers to the Editor please mark the items of news to which you desire to call his attention.

Brevities.

The annual dance of Dundee chemists' assistants and friends was held in Gray's Assembly Rooms on Wednesday evening, January 29. The company numbered over one hundred. Mr. W. J. Peacock and Mr. Lyall McDougall were masters of ceremonies.

A Portsoy grocer was fined 20*s.* at the Banff Sheriff Court last week for selling honey containing 50 per cent. of sucrose. He had bought it labelled "Finest Scotch clover honey," and his solicitor pointed out that according to Section 27 "every person who shall falsely describe an article shall be liable to a penalty."

Eight charges of fraud and theft against a man named Gunnell were investigated at the Orkney Sheriff Court on January 22. One of the charges related to goods obtained from Mr. George McDiarmid, chemist and druggist, Stromness, who befriended him. Gunnell stated that he was a chemist and also a brother Mason. He was found guilty on seven of the charges and sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

Edinburgh.

The daily average of insurance prescriptions seems to be increasing, and a few doctors are ordering larger quantities.

At Inverleith, on January 29, a football match was played between Edinburgh Pharmacy F.C. and Bonnyrigg Wednesday F.C., the score was in favour of the former team, being one goal to nil.

Mr. W. S. Glass, Ph.C., 193 Morningside Road, and Mr. J. A. Forret, pharmacist, 25 Brougham Place, have been elected vice-president and honorary secretary respectively of the Edinburgh and Leith Traders' Defence Association.

The local Press is still reflecting the views of many correspondents in regard to things medical and pharmaceutical. One individual is perturbed because Portobello has no public dispensary; but a more serious aspect of this discussion is the frequently reiterated statement that cheap and, by implication, useless drugs are being supplied by chemists on the panels.

Glasgow and the West.

The Shops Act inspectors have been recently specialising in chemists' shops, but no infringements of the Act have been recorded.

The strike of the workers of Messrs. Perry, Hope & Co., manufacturing chemists, has been amicably settled. The men have received an advance of 2*s.* and boys 1*s.*

St. George's Co-operative Drug Department balance-sheet for quarter ended December 4 shows: Wages, 67*l.* 6*s.*; rent, 15*l.*; stock last quarter, 533*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*; goods added, 802*l.* 18*s.* 7½*d.*; shop sales, 232*l.* 0*s.* 1½*d.*; stock this quarter, 635*l.* 11*s.* 5½*d.*; and profit, 30*l.*

In an action against D. Robertson, dental consulting rooms, 94 Dundas Street, Glasgow, for 250*l.* as damages for

injuries sustained through the fault and negligence of defender's servant in making an injection into plaintiff's gums, an agreement has been come to by which defender pays plaintiff 100*l.* as damages, with expenses.

INDIA AND THE EAST.

(From the "C. & D." Correspondents.)

MR. DOUGLAS STUART RICHMOND has been admitted a member of the firm of Smith, Stanistreet & Co., 9 Dalhousie Square, Calcutta, as from January 1.

COLONEL W. T. GRICE, F.C.S., of Messrs. Smith, Stanistreet & Co., chemists, Calcutta, has been appointed an additional member of the Bengal Legislative Council.

PERSONAL.—Mr. Chas. MacArthur has arrived in Ceylon to take charge of the drug and dispensing department of Messrs. Brown & Co.'s Hatton branch.—Mr. G. W. Crawford, of The Pharmacy, has left Singapore for Java, where he is to undergo medical treatment. He is accompanied by Mrs. Crawford. Mr. R. Schulz, managing proprietor of the Bangkok Dispensary, is returning to the East by the *Goeben*.

SALE OF POISONS IN BANGALORE.—The "Gazette of India" of December 31 last, contains a notification (says the "Board of Trade Journal") laying down certain draft rules which it is proposed to issue under the "Poisons Act, No. 1 of 1904," for the purpose of regulating the possession and sale of various poisons in the civil and military station of Bangalore. It is proposed that no person shall possess any specified poison for sale by retail, except under licence granted by the District Magistrate. Aconite, nux vomica, corrosive sublimate, potassium cyanide, stramonium (datura), arsenic and sulphides of arsenic—i.e., red sublimate (realgar)—and yellow sulphide (orpiment), chloroform and its preparations for anæsthetic purposes are enumerated as "poisons."

WHAT WAS THE CAUSE OF DEATH?—An inquest by Dr. Iliffe, Coroner for North Warwickshire, was held at Coventry on Wednesday and Thursday this week. Dr. Heald, who attended the deceased child, was legally represented, as also were the child's parents; and a chemist, by the local solicitor of the Chemists' Defence Association, Ltd. The inquiry was attended by the medical officers of health and members of the staffs of Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, in which the girl died. The facts as disclosed on Wednesday were that, last summer, Frances Maud Willmott (8) left the Council school she was attending on account of having contracted ringworm. Afterwards a young brother and a sister got the disease. The mother took two of the children to Dr. Heald's surgery; first she saw another local doctor, who was then acting for Dr. Heald, and he gave her some ointment. Subsequently she saw Dr. Heald, and he prescribed iodine, she said. In December, on the recommendation of a school teacher, some blue ointment was obtained; but, that not effecting a cure, Dr. Heald's advice was again taken. This was January 22 last. He gave her liquid iodine and a prescription, which she took to Mr. Bales, chemist. It was for ammoniated-mercury ointment. She applied both articles to the children's heads, and declared that on this both children so treated screamed out. Again she saw the chemist, who gave her some boracic ointment; but sickness set in; and she saw also Dr. Heald, who told her to poultice, and to feed the deceased child by the rectum. The child was removed to the hospital on January 30, and died February 1. Much discussion took place in the course of the examination of the mother, and subsequently as to whether she was right in her memory as to instructions to apply the remedies both together. Mr. W. Johnston, Ph.C., Brixton, for the Chemists' Defence Association, gave the Court the result of analysis of the ointment, and said the combination of iodine with mercurial ointment preparation (largely used for destroying parasitic life) would produce one of the iodides of mercury, the mercurous. Dr. E. Phillips, who was present at the post-mortem, expressed the opinion that some of the mercurial matter entered the head through broken skin. Dr. English, senior house surgeon at Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, who made the post-mortem examination, ascribed death to mercurial poisoning, probably. On the application of the solicitor for the parents, the part of the intestines not put back into the body was directed to be retained. At the close of a long sitting the inquest was adjourned.

LEGAL REPORTS.

TRADE LAW.

Shops Act.—At the Cardiff Police Court on February 5, before Mr. T. W. Lewis, Stipendiary, David Lloyd, chemist and Druggist, of Adam Street, was summoned under the Shops Act, 1912, for serving customers during prohibited hours, and also for not exhibiting a notice intimating that the shop was closed except for the sale of medicines and medical and surgical appliances. Defendant stated that he was serving a customer with linseed-meal, which was often an urgent matter. His watch showed that it was only just 8 p.m. The inspector admitted that his timepiece did not agree with that of the defendant. The Stipendiary said he did not think it was a case for a penalty, and defendant would simply be cautioned.

Eczema an Accident.—In the City of London Court last week, after a three-days' hearing, before Judge Rentoul, K.C., and Dr. Murray Leslie, Home Office Medical Referee, the case of Braun v. Katte under the Workmen's Compensation Act was disposed of. In this for the first time an effort was made to include eczematous ulceration of the skin under the term of "accident," and in the result Judge Rentoul, K.C., said he was satisfied that Braun suffered from eczematous ulceration. He would therefore be entitled to compensation, subject to a point of law to be raised. We may recall the fact already recorded (*C. & D.*, 1912, II., 808) that the plaintiff contracted the ailment through the use of dry shampoo.

Face Cream in Tubes.—In the City of London Court on January 31, before Judge Rentoul, K.C., Messrs. Burgoyne, Burbidges & Co., wholesale manufacturing chemists, 12 Coleman Street, E.C., sued Mrs. Anson, a lady of independent means, trading as Miss Meadows, toilet specialist, 13 Beauchamp Place, S.W., to recover 4l. 15s. for five gross of tubes supplied, containing her "Monda" cream for face massage. Mr. E. Welfare appeared for the plaintiff, and said that defendant manufactured all sorts of creams called "vanishing" creams, and she came to the plaintiffs to supply her with tubes for her "Monda" cream, it having previously been packed in pots. The plaintiffs sent the defendant eleven samples, one of which was selected and the wording supplied. The tubes were perfect in every way, but it appeared when the tubes were squeezed the cream would not come out to her liking. There was water in the cream, and the water separated from the cream. That, however, was nothing to do with the plaintiffs. The defendant refused to take the tubes, which were specially prepared for her. Judge Rentoul said if the goods were specially made for the defendant she could not refuse them except for very good cause. If the goods were salable to someone else it might be different. Mr. Welfare said he relied on Section 14 of the Sale of Goods Act. Judge Rentoul said there was an implied warranty that the goods would be reasonably fit. If they were wholly useless for the purpose intended, the defendant need not take the goods. If the tubes were made according to the sample, no matter how worthless they were, defendant must pay for them. Mr. Stiebel, for defendant, said that defendant relied on the plaintiffs' skill and ability as manufacturing chemists. Mr. Welfare said plaintiffs suggested to defendant that the cream was too thick. Defendant supplied her own formula. Mr. Winchester, plaintiffs' witness, said that his firm suggested they should put in a modified formula to overcome the difficulty. Mrs. Anson, the defendant, said she wanted the tubes to look as dainty as possible, but she did not really get what she wanted. She relied upon the plaintiffs, and was surprised to find she was disappointed. Mr. Arthur Ling, 74 Great Tower Street, analytical chemist, said that the two creams were generally similar, but the constituents were entirely different, although that made by plaintiffs' formula would doubtless come out of the tubes more easily. Judge Rentoul thought that a compromise should have been arrived at, and gave judgment for the defendant, with costs.

High Court Cases.

Unless when otherwise stated these cases have been heard in the High Court of Justice, London.

THERMOS GOODS.

The action of Thermos, Ltd., v. Wesselhorft came before Lord Justice Farwell (sitting as an additional Chancery Judge) on January 31 on a motion to restrain the defendant from using the words "made by the Thermos Co." in connection with goods not manufactured by the plaintiff company.

Mr. Moulton stated that the defendant agreed to treat the motion as the trial of the action, to submit to a perpetual injunction, and pay an agreed sum as damages and costs. It was a "passing off" action.

His Lordship made an order in the terms agreed.

ANALYST AND COCOA COMPANY.

In the Chancery Division on January 31, before Lord Justice Farwell (sitting as an additional Judge), Mr. Römer, K.C., moved, on behalf of Mr. Otto Hehner, analytical chemist, to restrain Sandow's Cocoa and Chocolate Co., Ltd., from publishing as a trade advertisement or otherwise an alleged expression of his opinion upon defendants' goods, which was wholly unauthorised and contrary to the facts. (*See C. & D.*, February 1, index folio 185.)

Mr. Martelli, K.C. (for the defendants) said he submitted to the injunction asked for, and was prepared to pay the costs of the action and agree to an inquiry as to damages.

Mr. Römer: Advertisements have been widely issued by the defendants which clearly imply that Mr. Otto Hehner had been consulted by the defendants in connection with the subject-matter of the advertisements, and that what is published is his opinion in connection therewith. As a matter of fact, the statements attributed to him are totally different from the opinions he holds and has expressed for years past. He was never consulted and never authorised the statements.

Mr. Martelli: The directors have expressed their regret, and they regret that any annoyance should have been caused the plaintiff.

His Lordship granted a perpetual injunction, with costs and an inquiry as to damages, remarking that probably the inquiry would not be pressed for if the defendants gave publicity to their apology.

VICHY CELESTINS LOST AT SEA.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, before Mr. Justice Scrutton in the Commercial Court of the King's Bench Division, Messrs. Ingram & Royle, Ltd., Belvedere Road, London, sued the Services Maritimes du Tréport, of 11 and 12 Great Tower Street, E.C., in respect of the loss of a quantity of mineral waters shipped to plaintiff from Tréport, France, on the defendant's steamship *Hardy*. Mr. D. O. Leck, K.C., and Mr. W. Raeburn appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Dawson Miller, K.C., and Mr. F. D. Mackinnon were for the defendants.

Mr. Leck said the plaintiffs had on board 1,075 cases of Vichy Celestins and 60 cases of Evian Cachat water, consigned to London. The *Hardy* left Tréport about 12.40 p.m. on December 11, 1911, and she was lost shortly after the voyage began. She had on board also a quantity of metallic sodium in cases, and these were stowed on the top of the hatch of No. 2 hold. The sodium broke away from the hatchway, and fell on the deck, setting up explosions, which ultimately caused the vessel to sink. It was plaintiffs' case that the *Hardy* was unseaworthy by reason of the fact that the sodium was carried on deck instead of under deck. The defendants were basing their defence upon exceptions in the bill of lading.

Mr. Ballantyne, a witness for the plaintiffs, said in his opinion it was not safe to carry the sodium on deck, and it should have been placed under deck under cover.

Mr. Dawson Miller, for the defence, denied the *Hardy* was unseaworthy. He submitted there was a fire, accompanied by explosions, and the defendants were not liable under the bill of lading, because the cargo was lost through fire. Every precaution had been observed in taking the sodium on board.

Professor Vivian Lewis, in evidence for the defendants, said in his view there must have been fire to ignite the gas which caused the explosions.

His lordship reserved judgment.

ADVERTISING LACTOLINE SPECIALITIES.

Mr. Edward Pollock, High Court Official Referee, heard on February 4 an action by Mr. Stanley Elliott, carrying on business as the Trade Extension Company, of St. Mary Abbott's Terrace, Kensington, against Mr. Herbert John Doree, Newgate Street, London, for the recovery of damages for alleged breach of contract in regard to Lacto-

line specialities, of which the defendant owns the rights. Defendant counter-claimed for the price of goods sold and delivered, and, answering plaintiffs' claim, alleged that he had not carried out obligations in regard to the sale of these proprietary articles. Mr. Kyffin opened the case for Mr. Elliott, explaining that his business was to put before the public certain proprietary articles owned by other people, and the defendant possessed certain proprietary articles known as Lactoline—various toilet requisites for the face. Early in 1911 the defendant was trying to form a company to acquire and work the rights. In January of that year the defendant warranted to the plaintiff that he would form the company, and that its capital would be about 20,000*l.* The plaintiff undertook to place the preparations on the market and create a demand for them. It was a term of the agreement that the defendant or his company would advertise his preparations in the local Press of the towns the plaintiff was working, and it was a further term, expressed or implied, that the defendant should always keep a stock that would be sufficient for the prompt execution of the orders obtained by the plaintiff. In April the defendant wrote to the plaintiff that the company was through, and that the capital was 15,000*l.* The plaintiff was therefore induced, it was alleged, to proceed with the carrying out of his part of the agreement, and defendant accepted the terms by supplying goods, by paying plaintiff commission on orders he obtained under the agreement, and the plaintiff's window-dresser's travelling expenses. Plaintiff complained that the defendant failed to advertise in the local Press, that he also failed to keep a sufficient stock of the preparations, and that on July 29, 1911, the defendant, in breach of the warranty, formed and registered a company with a capital of 150*l.* Plaintiff said that as that fact became known to the trade it was difficult for him to get orders.

The plaintiff gave evidence in support of this statement. He stated that he now carries on business at 83, 84, and 85 Farringdon Street, and after his examination was cross-examined on Wednesday by Mr. R. F. Colam, K.C. In the course of the cross-examination on Thursday Mr. Colam read a letter from Mr. William Taylor, of Reid & Young, chemists, Helensburgh, to the Lactoline Co. The writer said he enclosed a cheque for 1*l.* 10*s.*, and said he would send the remainder when the contract was fulfilled. He went on:

"Should I have any more letters about this storm in a tea-cup, I shall publish in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST the manner in which you have bungled all this business with my *confère* and myself."

Mr. Colam suggested that customers' complaints about advertisements did not refer to Press advertisements, but signified want of advertisement, for which the canvassers in their house-to-house visitation were responsible.—"No," replied the plaintiff, "they were referring to the lack of Press advertising." The case is proceeding.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

SEIDLITZ POWDERS.

At Birmingham, on January 31, Alfred Ierston, trading as Kee's Herbal Medicine Depot, The Parade, Birmingham, was summoned for selling Seidlitz powders not according to the standard of the B.P. It was stated that those sold exhibited a wide discrepancy from the formula of the British Pharmacopœia. A fine of 2*l.*, and costs, was imposed.

GAZETTE.

Partnerships Dissolved.

HANDCOCK, W., and PHILLIPS, J., Girlington Road and Duckworth Grove, Bradford, physicians and surgeons, under the style of Handcock & Phillips.

TYRRELL, W., and FOX-SYMONS, R., Cromwell Road, South Kensington, surgeons and medical practitioners, under the style of Tyrrell & Fox-Symons.

The Bankruptcy Acts, 1883 and 1890.

ADJUDICATIONS.

LANG, E. J., Old Burlington Street, physician and surgeon.
PASCALL, F. G., Market Place, Oakham, chemist and druggist.

DEED OF ARRANGEMENT.

Herbert Simpson, 127 Killinghall Road, Bradford, Chemist.—Trustee: W. S. Smith, 24 Piccadilly, Bradford. Dated, January 30; filed, February 1. Liabilities unsecured, 152*l.*; estimated net assets, 90*l.* The creditors include Southall Bros. & Barclay, Ltd. (20*l.*); Stephenson Bros. (12*l.*); Camwal Ltd. (14*l.*); Hirst, Brooke & Hirst (16*l.*); Raines & Co. (21*l.*).

LIMITED COMPANIES.

New Companies Registered.

The letters P.C. mean Private Company within the meaning of the Companies Act, 1907, and R.O., Registered Office.

UNIVERSITY DRUG CO., LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 500*l.*, in 12 shares. Objects: To carry on the business of chemists, druggists, etc. R.O., 77 High Street, Bournbrook, Birmingham.

BATTERHAM'S CASH DRUG-STORES, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 500*l.*, in 12 shares. Objects: To carry on the business indicated by the title. R.O., 16 Fonthill Road, Tollington Park, London, N.

FOSTER'S DRUG-STORES, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 200*l.*, in 14 shares. Objects: To carry on the business of chemists, druggists, opticians, etc. The first directors are E. Foster, W. Foster, and H. Cocker. R.O., 23 Skinner Street, Clerkenwell, London, E.C.

YOUNG'S DRUG-STORES, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 600*l.*, in 12 shares. Objects: To carry on the business of chemists, druggists, dysalsters, etc., and to acquire the business carried on at 73 West Ferry Road, Millwall, as "Young's Drug-stores." R.O., 73 West Ferry Road, Millwall.

WILLIAM CLAPHAM, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 500*l.*, in 12 shares. Objects: To take over the business carried on by W. Clapham at Manchester, and to carry on the business of chemists, dysalsters, oil and colour manufacturers, etc. The first directors are W. Clapham and H. M. Sandford, chemist.

T. H. WATTERSON, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 500*l.*, in 12 shares. Objects: To take over the business of T. H. Watterson, and carry on the business of chemists, druggists, opticians, wine and spirit merchants, etc. The first directors are J. B. Walton, chemist, and T. H. Watterson. R.O., 259 Great Homer Street, Liverpool.

PAYNE & STARBUCK, LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 500*l.*, in 5*l.* shares. Objects: To take over the business carried on by H. Payne, pharmacist, at 13 Queen Street, Market Rasen, and to carry on the business of wholesale, retail, and manufacturing chemists and stationers, etc. The first directors are H. Payne and C. S. Starbuck. R.O., 13 Queen Street, Market Rasen.

W. E. LOWE & CO., LTD. (P.C.).—Capital 1,000*l.*, in 12 shares. Objects: To take over the business of chemists and druggists carried on at 8 Stafford Street, Old Bond Street, London, W., as "W. E. Lowe & Co." The first subscribers are H. W. Collier, M.B., 71 Whitehall Park, N.; E. Whineray, 8 Stafford Street, W., pharmacist; and T. W. Boxall, 8 Stafford Street, W., pharmacist. R.O., 8 Stafford Street, Old Bond Street, W.

Company News.

T. & H. SMITH, LTD.—The report for the year ending September 30, 1912, to be presented at the meeting at Edinburgh on February 10, states that the profit for the year, after charging debenture interest, directors' fees, and making provision for bad debts, is 12,146*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*, to which add the balance brought forward from last year, 1,395*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*—together 13,541*l.* 19*s.* From this is deducted interim dividend paid on the preference shares for the half-year to March 31, 1912, amounting to 1,584*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*, leaving a balance at credit of profit-and-loss account as at September 30, 1912, of 11,957*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* Out of this the directors recommend a dividend on the preference shares in respect of the half-year to September 30, 1912, 1,584*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*; also to pay a dividend on the ordinary shares in respect of the year to September 30, 1912, of 7½ per cent. per annum, free of tax—this will absorb 4,875*l.* They also propose to set aside (under the authority of Article No. 100A of the company's articles of association) 1,165*l.* as a bonus, to provide 500*l.* for depreciation of the old works at Canonmills, and to place to reserve fund 2,500*l.* (making the sum at credit of this fund 7,500*l.*). This leaves a balance of 1,333*l.* 4*s.* to be carried forward. Stocks have been valued on a conservative basis, and ample provision has been made for bad and doubtful debts. Mr. Billingham, the retiring director, offers himself for re-election.

National Health Insurance.

Administration of Medical Benefit as regards Chemists' Interests.

Points in Practice.

posing questions and answers in regard to difficulties of administration and interpretation experienced by "C. & D." readers.

RENDERING ACCOUNTS.—*J. P. R.* (215/2).—"Every chemist shall furnish to the Committee on dates to be appointed by the Commissioners quarterly accounts in a form to be provided by the Committee." See Regulations, *C. & D.*, Supplement, December 7, p. xxxv (43, 1).

POSTAGE ON ACCOUNTS.—*O. H. M. S.* (222/49) asks if it is necessary for chemists to pay the postage on prescriptions sent to the Insurance Committee. [There is nothing that we know of to relieve either chemists or the Insurance Committee of paying postage on anything sent through the post.]

MILE LIMIT.—*P. H.* (220/25) is next door to a doctor who is doing the dispensing for patients living outside the village, apparently beyond the mile limit. He asks if this is right, and if the doctor will be paid for dispensing according to the tariff. [If the facts are properly represented to the Insurance Committee before the end of the current quarter they may object to continue the arrangement with the doctor, who is paid in such cases at the rate of 9s. per head per annum, including medicines.]

STOCK MIXTURES.—*Rosa Alba* (223/9), a pharmacist in the West Riding, says that one doctor in his district orders *Mist. alb.*, "*Mist. stomachic.*," and similar preparations. What should he send? [If we were in "*Rosa Alba*," place, we would call on the doctor and have the matter settled with him, showing him p. 220 of the *C. & D. Diary*, 1912, where there are fourteen different forms for *Mistura alba*, and p. 232, where there are three for *Mistura stomachica*. The doctor may have his own forms in each case, and he could give them to any chemist who applies for them.]

Rosa Alba also asks: "Will the Government pay for such articles?" [The Insurance Committee will if the prescriptions are properly priced.]

LEECHES.—*Somerset* (222/17) had an order for leeches from a practitioner on the panel, and the case being an urgent one he obtained them by telegraphic order and supplied them. He asks whether leeches are to be regarded as "medicine" or "surgical appliance." [Leeches are "medicine" by Act of Parliament, the General Medical Council being required by Section 54 of the Medical Act to publish a book containing a list of medicines (the *British Pharmacopœia*), and leeches are described therein on p. 147; consequently they are medicine, and should be charged on the basis of 33 per cent. upon cost, including the telegram and carriage. Perhaps the charge may be queried, but our correspondent should be prepared with a reply.]

TRUSSES.—*C. C.* (222/17) supplied an insured person with a truss ordered by the doctor, and he has now been informed that he cannot claim for it. There is nothing to prevent him claiming for it, but also there is nothing to compel the Insurance Committee to pay for it, as the contract entered into between "*C. C.*" and the Insurance Committee expressly excludes payment for surgical appliances other than those mentioned in the tariff. It appears that insured persons have some rights in the matter, and these are recognised by Regulation 34, which enables the Insurance Committee to lend appliances. The best course for "*C. C.*" to take in the matter is to advise the Clerk to the Insurance Committee in regard to the transaction which has taken place, and when such orders recur to communicate with the Clerk before executing.

USE OF WRONG FORMS.—*J. W. M.* (222/49) writes: "If a drug that ought to be on a green form is put on a pink form, and *vice versa*, will that drug be paid for? My doctor wrote in. iod. on a pink paper, and when I told him he said that it would be paid for, so did not give me a green paper." The doctor is a common-sense man. The principal object of the different colours is to assist in the sorting of the prescriptions when the auditing takes place, but another object is to encourage prescribers to confine themselves to the tariff articles, these being specially selected for their comparative cheapness consistent with therapeutic activity. For example, tincture of gentian is not in the tariff, but infusion of gentian is, the opinion being that the latter is therapeutically as efficient as the tincture. We do not know of anything in the contract between chemists and Insurance Committees that will enable the Committees to repudiate payment because a medical man has used the wrong paper form in prescribing.]

DOCTORS' DISPENSERS' COMPANY.—*P. J.* (222/28) writes: "I have been in the retail chemist's trade for thirty-four years; during the last eight years I have acted as dispenser to a

qualified medical man. On applying to be put on the panel for Insurance dispensing the Committee refused my application owing to my not being a registered chemist. If I were to turn my business into a limited company, with a registered chemist as director, should I myself be eligible to dispense on behalf of the company without the supervision of a registered man?" [If "*P. J.*" had actually been engaged as a doctor's dispenser during the three years immediately prior to the Act he will be entitled to dispense Insurance prescriptions received by the company, but the company cannot be placed on the dispensing panel until it complies with the provisions of Section 3 of the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1908, one of which is that a registered chemist must be superintendent of the company, and his name must have been forwarded to the Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society.]

MILE LIMIT.—*Observer* (215/42) puts the following case: In a small rural village on a main railway line, A is the only pharmacist, and there is one resident doctor. Three miles in a south-easterly direction is another small village, B, with no pharmacist, but one resident doctor. Two miles directly south of A lies another small rural village without either pharmacist or doctor; but five miles away directly south of A there is yet another small village, D, with no pharmacist, but with one resident doctor. Now "*Observer*" wishes to know if the doctors from B and from D, who visit patients (insured persons), say either in A or a mile away from A, are they bound to write a prescription for medicines or for appliances to the patients where such are required, or can they (the doctors) provide them themselves if they think fit to do so? [The first thing to note here is the condition that the chemist has to be on the list of chemists for the district or districts in which the insured persons reside; that gives him the right to supply such persons who reside not more than one mile from his place of business. In the case of insured persons beyond that distance the Insurance Committee is empowered to authorise doctors to supply the medicines, etc., and if the doctors desire to undertake the supply the Committee cannot prevent them, but must make arrangements with the doctors. "*Rural Area*" has not yet been defined, but "*Observer*" should have his say with his local Committee in settling which persons the doctors are entitled to supply. It must not be forgotten that, independent of the mile limit, doctors are regarded as the customary suppliers of medicines and appliances in certain circumstances, which the Act has not altered.]

SUPPLYING SANATOGEN.—*Pharmacist* (215/1) asks: Has the medical man a right to prescribe sanatogen? [We gave a negative reply to a similar question last week, and can only repeat it with the reasons why, because a reply differing from ours has been given in a quarter which may be regarded as authoritative. The first point is that the contract between the State and insured persons entitles the latter, *inter alia*, to "medical attendance and treatment (including medicines and appliances)." This term of the contract does not include articles ancillary to the treatment, such as better housing, better clothing, better food, and what are commonly called medical comforts. The second point (we quote from Section 15 of the Act, see *C. & D. Diary*, p. 458) is that Insurance Committees are empowered and are required to make "provision for the supply of proper and sufficient drugs and medicines and prescribed appliances to insured persons." The contract between chemists and Insurance Committees limits payment to drugs, medicines, and appliances. The third point is that the insured person is entitled to get free "such drugs and prescribed appliances as may be ordered for him by the practitioner attending him." All this is subject to control through the tariff of drugs and appliances ordinarily supplied, and the Commissioners have explained to medical men (see *C. & D.*, 1912, II., 957) that the question what drugs should be included in the list of those "ordinarily supplied" is a matter for the doctors, chemists, and Insurance Committee of each area. It is possible, if thought fit, to include not only British Pharmacopœia preparations, but also any others that it may be thought desirable to include. Two questions have now to be determined: First, is sanatogen a drug or a medicine? Second, is it or has it been ordinarily supplied by doctors to their patients as medicine covered by the inclusive fee for advice and medicine? The reply to the first is doubtful: Sanatogen is advertised in such a way that if a compounded medicine it would require to be stamped. It is not stamped, but this may be because it comes within the entire drugs exemption. Nevertheless it is generally regarded as a special tonic food. The reply to the second question is "No." For these reasons we consider that insured persons are not entitled to be supplied free with sanatogen or similar articles not *sui generis* with those in the printed tariff, nor should doctors prescribe or chemists supply them at the expense of the drug-fund.]

PHARMACY IN A HOUSE (*J. N.*, 23/91).—We do not know of anything in the Act or Regulations to prevent you dispensing in a private residence, but it is entirely subject to the approval of the local Insurance Committee. It would be exceedingly interesting for you to try it.

LATE APPLICATION FOR PANEL.—*Notes* (220/42) is so situated in business that his customers reside in two counties, and he was too late in applying for the panel of one county, but made subsequent application. He now wants to know if he is justified in supplying his customers residing in the area with medicines, etc. [Whenever a contract with the Insurance Committee is signed, business relations begin, and the chemist can supply insured persons within the Insurance Committee's area with drugs, medicines, and appliances.]

Pricing Problems.

Insurance prescriptions received by "C. & D." subscribers and submitted to us for pricing, because of exceptional or new points of interpretation. The principles upon which prescriptions are charged for are fully explained in the article "Computation," "C. & D.," January 25, which with the ready-reckoner table is printed as a card by the Book Department, "C. & D.," price 6d., by post 7d.

1.	Ammon. carb. 3ss. ... 1d.	2.	Potass. bicarb. 3ij. ... 1d.
	Tr. opii 3j. ... 1d.		Sodii sulph. 3vj. ... 1d.
	Sp. aeth. nit. 3ss. ... 2d.		Tr. nuc. vom. mix. ... 1d.
	Inf. senegae conc. 3ss. ... 2d.		Inf. gent. co. conc. 3iv. ... 1d.
	Eth. sulph. 3j. ... 1d.		Aq. menth. pip. +
	Aq. ad 3vj. ... 1d.		chlorof. ad 3vj. ... 1d.
	Dispensing-fee ... 2d.		Dispensing-fee ... 2d.
	9d.		6d.

ETHER. B.P. OR METH.—*F. R.* (208/23).—No. 1. Use B.P. and charge accordingly—i.e., 1d. Methylated would be 1d., but B.P. standards must be followed in dispensing Insurance prescriptions. In No. 2 the charge for the vehicle is 1d., as it consists of two waters.

3. Ung. sulphuris 1 lb. ... 2s. Sapo. mollis 2 lb. ... 2s. 8d.

POUND RATE.—*B. C. L.* (222/4).—Nos. 3 and 4. Charge at ounce rate, the surplus being the retailer's profit, which should be 45 per cent. on the mode at which the ounce rate is deducted. In the above cases it happens to work out at 60 per cent. for the ointment and 77 per cent. for the soap. No other mode is provided in the drug-tariff, and the retailer cannot be expected to charge the wholesale price per lb.

5.	Ung. methyl salicylat. eo. 3ss. ... 8d.	6.	Liq. Carbonis Detergens (Wright) 3j. ... 3d.
	Dispensing-fee ... 2d.		Aq. ad 3vj. ... 1d.
	10d.		Dispensing-fee ... 2d.
			51d.

DRACHM RATE AND SPECIAL OINTMENT.—*G. L.* (150/23).—No. 5. Martindale's formula was dispensed. For 240 grains this would be methyl salicylate 18 (3d.), menthol 36 (5½d.), hydrous wool-fat 93 (1d.), and anhydrous wool-fat 93 (1d.). Note the lanoline is below ¼ oz., and must be charged at drachm rate, which cannot be below ½d. This gives 1d. as the price for 93 grains.

LIQ. CARBONIS DETERGENS.—*M. D. S.* (155/24).—No. 6. The proprietary costs 2s. 11d. pint (approximately 1 lb.), so tariff rate is 3d., not 4d., per oz. A pink form should have been used. Your pricing of the mixture is correct.

7.	Tab. antifebrin et caff. gr. v. ... 1d.	8.	Acid. aceto-salicyl. gr. v. 1½d.
	Mitte tales x. ... 1d.		Ft. tab. Mitte tales xxxvj.
	Sig.: One when required.		Dispensing-fee ... 5d.
	Dispensing-fee ... 3d.		6½d.
	4d.		
9.	Thyroid gland gr. v. 6s. 2½d.	10.	Tab. calcii lact. gr. v. ... 1d.
	Mitte 100		Mitte xxxvj.
	Dispensing-fee ... 11d.		Dispensing-fee ... 5d.
	7s. 1½d.		6d.

UNLISTED TABLETS.—*M. H. W.* (223/62).—No. 7. The materials in the tablets are charged for, not the flat rate of 4d. per doz. for listed tablets, unless specially agreed upon, as has been done in Bottle, when there is no dispensing-fee. The price for caffeine (10 gr., ½d.) is derived by dividing 2½d. by 50=grain rate, and multiplying by 10. Similarly 1½d. for acid. acetyl. salicyl., not 1s. (dozen rate), must be charged in No. 8. Pink forms were required.

F. R. P. (223/1).—No. 8. See reply to "M. H. W." above. The charge for thirty-six tablets acid. aceto-salicyl. gr. 5 will be 6½d., including dispensing-fee.

E. G. (221/60).—Nos. 9 and 10. See reply to "M. H. W." above. The price for dry thyroid is 4s. 3d. oz., or 5s. 11½d.

per apothecaries' oz. This gives 6s. 2½d. for 500 grains. No. 12. Fellows' syrup, large size, costs 3s. 10½d. per bottle, and (presuming from your remarks this contains 14 fl. oz.) by adding 33 per cent. on cost the charge is 2s. 10d. At the flat rate of 4d. per doz. the thyroid tablets would be 2s. 9½d., and the calcium-lactate tablets 1s.

11.	Paraffin. liq. 3viij. ... 8d.	12.	Fellows' syrup 8 oz ... 2s. 10d.
	Dispensing-fee ... 2d.		
	10d.		

J. B. (223/2).—Why charge 1s. for No. 11? *Re Virol*, see reply as to Sanatogen. Order for "Boric lint, 3ij.," send 2 oz., as would be intended, and charge 3d.; but if 3ij. be actually sent the correct charge is 3½d.

13.	Sod. sulphocarb. 3j. ... 1d.	14.	Ae. acetyl-salicyl. 3ij. ... 1½d.
	Sod. sulphatis 3ij. ... 1d.		Syrupi limonis 3ss. ... 1d.
	Salol 5j. ... 1d.		Aquam ad 3vj. ... 1½d.
	Tragac. 4ss. ... 1d.		3ss. every four hours.
	Tr. chlorof. et morph. ... 1d.		Dispensing-fee ... 2d.
	Aq. ad 3vj. ... 1d.		
	3ss. 4tis horis.		4½d.
	Dispensing-fee (including emulsion) ... 4d.	15.	Acid. salicylic. 3ij. ... 1d.
	8d.		Liq. ammon. acet. conc. 3ss. 1d.
			Aq. chlorof. 3vj. ... 1½d.
			Dispensing-fee ... 2d.
			4d.

SUSPENSIONS.—*O. R. W.* (215/53).—No. 13. An extra fee for emulsion is charged, as the medical man orders the suspension of the salol. A charge is also made for the suspending agent. The term "emulsion" is generally used in connection with the suspension of oily bodies, but it is used as a name for "a mixture of small particles of solid or liquid substances in a liquid vehicle, the particles being kept in suspension, or easily diffusible, and prevented from coalescing by means of a body called an emulsifier."—*Art of Dispensing*, p. 308. From a common-sense point of view the fact that a mortar is used justifies some extra charge. See also the following two replies.

J. D. B. (221/66) says regarding No. 14 that, "for the greater convenience of the patient and greater accuracy in dosage, a suspending agent would naturally be added." He asks if a charge can be made in such a case where a suspending agent is not ordered. [The matter is one for arrangement with the prescriber, the dispenser not being justified in making the charge unless he has the physician's consent; even then it should be indicated on the prescription, as in No. 15, regarding which and charge for suspending agent see reply to "O. R. W." above.]

Emulsion (212/56).—No. 15. Reply to "J. D. B." covers your question.

16.	Sodii salicyl. 5j. ... 3½d.	17.	Pv. ipecac. eo. gr. x. ... 1d.
	3ss. twice daily.		Take at bedtime.
18.	Ung. hydrarg. ammon. 3ij. 4½d.	19.	Emp. bellad. 4 × 4 ... 3d.
	Ointment as directed.		
20.	Pil. aloes et ferri xxx. ... 7½d.		
	The Pills. One bis die.		

NO DISPENSING CHARGES.—*H. J.* (221/36).—Nos. 16 to 20 inclusive. [You are not entitled to a dispensing-fee for any of these prescriptions.]

21.	Magnes. sulphat. 3vj. ... 1d.	22.	Mist. biem. et peps. co. ... 2½d.
	Sodii bicarb. 3j. ... 1d.		B.P.C. 3vj. ... 1d.
	Magnes. carb. 3j. ... 1d.		Mist. alb. conc. 3j. ... 1d.
	Alum. menth. pip. m. ... 1d.		Aq. ad 3vj. ... 1d.
	Oleum ad 3vj. M. ... 1d.		3ss. every four hours.
	Dispensing-fee ... 2d.		Dispensing-fee ... 2d.
	4½d.		6½d.

STOCK MIXTURES (*Perplexed*, 216/16).—*Mistura alba* was prescribed by a local doctor, who sent with it the following recipe, and "Perplexed" wants to know how it should be charged—i.e., whether so much per oz. of mist. alb., or the ingredients separately. We consider it advisable to adopt the latter method, which alone conforms strictly with the tariff, and also enables the accounts to be properly checked. The recipe with prices is No. 21.

R. H. R. (160/14) asks how to charge for the concentrated white mixture No. 22. [In this case it should be charged as an ingredient (1d.=lb. price (1s.) divided by 12), unless the preparation has to be made extemporaneously, when a charge may be made for the separate ingredients (1½d. to 2½d., according to formula). The fact that you send a second script for a mixture containing mist. alb. conc. and sp. ammon. arom. shows that the concentrated mixture is one that will be kept ready made owing to being in common use. The same principles apply to this second mixture. Note

the distilled water in No. 22 is 2 drachms over 6 oz., and is accordingly charged 1*d.*]

"CHARGE ON."—*G. F. C.* (225/22) considers that the nearest $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* in cases where the price of an ingredient works out below $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* is 0*d.* [Nothing is not a charge, therefore the minimum charge is $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*]

23.	24.
Ammon. carbazotate ... $\frac{1}{2}$ <i>d.</i>	Infusion, quassiae 3 <i>viij.</i> ... 1 <i>d.</i>
Aquam ad 3 <i>viij.</i> ... 1 <i>d.</i>	Dispensing-fee ... 2 <i>d.</i>
Dispensing-fee ... 2 <i>d.</i>	
3 <i>d.</i>	3 <i>d.</i>

3*ss.* t.*d.s.*

MALINGERER'S MIXTURES.—*R. H. R.* (160/14).—Presumably you send the ammonium picrate and quassa mixtures as examples of Insurance prescribing for the malingerer.

25.	26.
Tab. ichthylol gr. iiss. ... 4 <i>d.</i>	Tabellae carbo lig. gr. v. $\frac{1}{2}$ <i>d.</i>
Mitte xxxiv.	Mitte 100.
Dispensing-fee ... 5 <i>d.</i>	Dispensing-fee ... 11 <i>d.</i>
9 <i>d.</i>	11 <i>d.</i>

27.	28.
P. D. & Co.'s tablet No. 87 $\frac{3}{4}$ <i>d.</i>	Troch. sulph. co. Garrod
Mitte xxiv.	xxiv. ...
Dispensing-fee ... 4 <i>d.</i>	Dispensing-fee ... 4 <i>d.</i>
7 <i>d.</i>	5 <i>d.</i>

TABLETS.—*J. A. C. M.* (224/47).—No. 25. We make the charge for ichthylol 4*d.* (1*s.* 1*d.* per oz., or 1*s.* 6*d.* per apothecaries' ounce). See replies on previous page.

R. C. R. (224/66).—No. 26. See replies above.
R. H. R. (160/14).—No. 27. Quinine bisulphate tablets, r. 2, cost 10*d.* per 100, charge 33 per cent. on cost as for proprietary in addition to dispensing-fee.

LOZENGES.—No. 28.—*R. H. R.* (160/14).—The ounce rate for sulphur lozenges (1*s.* 8*d.* 1*lb.*) is 2*d.* Twenty-four weigh 3*viij.*

27.	28.
Sapo. virid. 3 <i>j.</i> ... 1 <i>d.</i>	Izal 3 <i>ss.</i> ... 1 <i>d.</i>
Tr. lavender. co. 3 <i>j.</i> ... 1 <i>d.</i>	Aq. ad 3 <i>viij.</i> ... 1 <i>d.</i>
Ungt. sulph. 3 <i>j.</i> ... 3 <i>d.</i>	3 <i>ss.</i> to pint of very hot water.
Ft. ungt.	Dispensing-fee ... 2 <i>d.</i>
Dispensing-fee ... 4 <i>d.</i>	3 <i>d.</i>

POINTMENT AND LOTION.—*R. H. R.* (160/14).—Nos. 27 and 28. Two apothecaries' ounces at $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* oz. is $\frac{3}{4}$ *d.* The rate for the compound tincture of lavender is 5*d.* per oz.

POWDERS.—*R. H. R.* (160/14).—See replies in last week's issue. The charge for twenty-four grains of veronal (5*s.* 2*d.* 1*lb.*, or 1*s.* 0*d.* 4*drachm*) is 5*d.*

DOUBLE QUANTITY PRESCRIPTION PRICING.—*W. F. N.* (224/48) asks if an ordinary 6-oz. mixture with a note on the prescription form "Send two bottles" should be priced at double the rate for a single bottle or as a 12-oz. mixture? Why raise the question? Two bottles are ordered, and should be dispensed and charged for as two.

MONTH'S SUPPLY.—*W. F. N.* (224/48).—An order for a 6-oz. mixture with the direction "Send enough for a month" should be charged according to the manner in which it is dispensed, and on the principle laid down in the last paragraph.

APOTHECARIES' OUNCE RATE.—*W. W.* (220/26).—To determine the price of 3*j.* of a medicament double the tariff ounce price (e.g., 1*d.* becomes 3*d.*), and find at this double the price in the last column of the *C. & D.* pricing table. Thus for 3*j.* at $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* take under the price at 3*d.* lower down in the table given under 3*viij.*, and it will be seen that this is $\frac{3}{4}$ *d.* This procedure is mathematically correct. Similarly for 3*ij.*, 3*iv.*, etc., use treble, quadruple, etc., the tariff rate, and take the price in the last column.

DISPENSING CHARGES FOR LINIMENT, COLLODION, AND SINGLE POWDER.—*W. G. D.* (220/64).—See answers in *C. & D.* last week (index folio 189).

COLORINGS.—*G. D. R.* (220/65).—Charge liq. cocci q.s. as for 4*d.* (i.e., below 3*j.*).

"UP OR DOWN."—*J. C.* (141/2).—The principle "the smaller the quantity ordered, the larger should be the percentage of profit" has already been taken into account in determining the tariff rate per oz., drachm, grain, or min., and cannot be applied a second time—e.g., bismuth. br. 3*j.* works out at 3.15*d.*, and is charged 3*d.*, not $\frac{3}{4}$ *d.* The law of averages the apparent anomalies should be as seen in favour of chemists as against them, and the total charges will be just.

DISTILLED WATER.—*M. E. G.* (224/54).—It is only fulfilling all obligations to use distilled water when "aqua" is ordered. See replies in last two issues.

U. K. W. (224/70).—Read your tariff. We pointed out in our Winter Issue that waters are by special mention excluded from the "up or down" clause. Water 8 oz. is accordingly 1*d.*

FOUR-DRACHM PRICE.—*R. L. R.* (224/66) writes: "In the case of 3*iv.* being ordered, is the charge to be per 3*j.* or

per 3*j.*?" [This primary principle of pricing is dealt with editorially in our Winter Issue.]

A. R. H. (225/48).—Yes: mist. guaiaci in No. 12 in our issue of February 12 is an emulsion, and the extra fee of 2*d.* should have been charged.

Dispensing Arrangements.

Being reports of meetings and notes on other matters from various local centres.

Chelmsford.—Mr. T. L. Nicholls writes in regard to last week's paragraph: "The complaint in question was not based on fact. It is absolutely untrue that there was any difficulty in procuring medicines on the evening of the 15th ult. At two establishments the pharmacists were in attendance the whole of the evening (myself and one other). The only effort required on the part of a patient was to ring the bell, and wait half a minute for it to be answered. It is quite clear that complainant made no such effort at either place."

Cheshire.—A sub-committee of the Provisional Medical Committee for the County of Cheshire, at a meeting held at Crewe on January 26, dealt with the revision and additions to the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee's drug-tariff. A report in the "British Medical Journal" supplement for February 2 states that five drugs were starred, implying that they are to be physiologically standardised. The qualities of the drugs were specified in a number of instances. A considerable addition was made to the list. A note was made that dressings should be in small sealed packages, and picric acid gauze and leg splints should be added, among other things, to the list of "appliances."

Cromer.—All the local medical men and chemists have agreed to give the following system a three months' trial:

The doctors to cease to do any dispensing, either under the Insurance Act or privately, except in cases of emergency.

The chemists to give up prescribing.

Medicines supplied are to be paid for as follows: Patients who have hitherto had prescriptions given them will be charged by chemists in the ordinary manner. In the case of patients who have been supplied by their medical man the cost of medicine will be charged to the doctor's private account, a note to that effect being made on each prescription. These charges will be on the approved tariff, subject to some little consideration being given to the doctor in respect to extremely poor patients. Prescriptions for patients insured under the National Insurance Act will be charged in the proper manner to the Insurance Committee. In all cases there is free choice of chemist.

Dewsbury.—A meeting of the Dewsbury Pharmacists' Association was held on February 3, Mr. A. B. Barker (President) in the chair. There were eleven other members present and Mr. J. H. Day (Hon. Secretary). The evening was taken up with a discussion on various points connected with the National Insurance Act. Mr. R. Broadhead, referring to the question of after-hours' fees for dispensing, proposed that the subject be reopened with the West Riding Insurance Committee now that the Commissioners have ruled that extra fees may be allowed. It was also stated that the medical men suggest that the chemists should agree to allow them 6*d.* per item for everything they dispensed or supplied when the chemists are not open. A joint conference is being arranged to discuss this and other matters with the medical men.

Edinburgh.—A meeting of the Edinburgh District Chemists' Trade Association was held at 36 York Place on January 30, Mr. A. Currie (President) in the chair. Mr. Thomas Wilson, 110 High Street, Burntisland, and Mr. J. Keith McCairn, 2 Grange Road, Edinburgh, were elected members. Many points in connection with Insurance dispensing were discussed, among others being the question of *Dispensing by Doctors* in the case of insured persons residing more than one mile from a chemist. It was pointed out that in many cases the chemist's shop was nearer to the insured person than the doctor's house, and that insured persons had to pass the chemist's shop in order to get supplies from the doctor's house. It was also pointed out that as the doctor is out on his rounds during a great part of the day the only time at which medicines could be obtained from the doctor was in the evening. This arrangement would greatly interfere with the right of insured persons under Regulation 34 to obtain medicines ordered from any chemist on the list. On the question of the *Balance on Quarterly Accounts* to be held over till the end of the year, it was agreed that this should not exceed 10 per cent. The general feeling was that the dispensing-fees were on too low a scale, and did not give adequate remuneration for the time and work and skill required for efficient service. There was also a general feeling that there ought to be a *Minimum Price for Prescriptions*, the present scale giving only one halfpenny in certain circumstances. It was also

pointed out that the principle on which the scale of prices was based was not consistently carried out in the case of flat rates for infusions, tinctures, and waters, and that these worked out very unfairly to chemists in many districts where the great preponderance of the prescribing consisted of infusions, tinctures, and waters of the higher-priced class. It was agreed to support a stated case for an extra fee for dispensing at night or out of business hours in the case of prescriptions marked "Urgent" by the medical practitioner, and it was agreed to collect information as to the extent to which such dispensing prevails in the case of insured persons. It was also agreed that some action should be taken as to intimating *Dispensing Hours*. In this connection it was mentioned that a book was being issued, under the auspices of the Leith Insurance Committee, giving insured persons clear directions as to what they should do with prescriptions so as to facilitate the supply of medicines and making conditions convenient for chemists. It was thought that some similar action might be taken in the case of insured persons in the Burgh of Edinburgh. It was agreed that under the heading of *Containers*, in all cases where the practice of pharmacists was to send out medicines for external use in poison-bottles, these should be charged to the Insurance Committee. It was further agreed that in any revision of the tariff some arrangement should be made by which there would be a reasonable allowance for all containers, including pots and boxes. It was explained that the Commissioners would not object to medical practitioners writing a prescription merely ordering a *Repetition of Medicine* by reference to a folio number without re-writing all the ingredients; and that in pricing this it would only be necessary to mark the total price charged on the first dispensing of the same medicine. It was pointed out, however, that as Regulation 34 gives an insured person free choice of chemist, a medical practitioner would be required to re-write the prescription if the patient desired this to be done. No medicine could be repeated without an order from the doctor, and no charge to the insured person could be made and no medicine be repeated even though the insured person expressed willingness to pay for it. *Proprietary Medicines*, if specially ordered, should be supplied meantime. When the quarterly accounts came to be examined it was quite possible that some question might be raised if the drug-bill was unduly inflated by the cost of those proprietary medicines. The obtaining of a supply of *Dressings and Appliances* by medical practitioners from chemists on the panel was under consideration, and might be arranged by agreement with the Insurance Committee. It was explained that no addition to the list of appliances can be made without the sanction of the Insurance Commissioners. Prescriptions written on *Green Forms for Special Drugs* should be dispensed. At the outset it is impossible to avoid confusion of this kind. The chemist has no responsibility for the colour of the paper, that being a matter between the medical practitioner and the Insurance Committee. The safe principle to go upon in all difficulties is that the sick man should have his medicine without delay, and any question arising should be adjusted later. Mr. G. H. C. Rowland exhibited a convenient file for keeping Insurance prescriptions in the form of a book, thus serving the purpose of a prescription-book and avoiding the necessity for copying prescriptions.

Exeter.—A meeting of the Exeter Association of Pharmacists was held on January 30 at the residence of the President (Mr. T. C. Milton), who presided. There were also present five members and Mr. F. W. Vinden (Hon. Secretary). Various matters which had arisen in connection with the drug-tariff were submitted to Mr. Woolcock, in order to obtain the opinion of the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee upon them.

Glasgow.—A local correspondent reports that Insurance prescriptions are now pouring in, and both medical men and chemists are having to work for their money. The half-day closing is now a greater boon than ever, as we know for certain we shall have one afternoon free. Doctors are saying they will also require to place themselves under the Shops Act regulations. It is proposed to hold one or two conferences between medical men and chemists, in order to give the doctors a better idea of what the Act allows in the way of appliances. Unfortunately, some doctors have gone outside the tariff in this respect, and several instances have been given where chemists have supplied these extras to their own loss.

Greenock.—A meeting of the Greenock Chemists' Association took place on January 30 to consider the new position created by the Medical Benefit sections of the National Insurance Act and the effect on Scottish pharmacy. Mr. J. Anderson Russell presided over a full attendance of members, and the opinion was expressed that if pharmacists as a class are to have a bare living, the remuneration for their

services must be on a higher scale than that offered by the drug tariff. The common experience seemed to be that quite two-thirds of the ordinary dispensing work has passed into Insurance dispensing, for which the price paid does not bear an adequate proportion of business expenses. It was agreed that immediate steps be taken to get the Scottish Advisory Committee to press for better terms, and that a minimum dispensing-fee of fourpence be asked for. The Local Committee are also to be asked to sanction a fee of 2s. for all work done between the hours of midnight and 6 A.M. Objection was taken to the absence of a fee for pills, capsules, etc., ordered uncompounded. These, it was pointed out, have to be prepared in the course of business, and occupy time. The flat-rate for infusions, waters, and tinctures was strongly condemned, as was also the fact that full value is to be given for ordinary bottles returned by insured persons.

Grimsby.—A meeting of the Grimsby Pharmacists' Association was held at the Oberon Hotel on January 27. Mr. Sneath was in the chair, and there were also present twelve members and Mr. C. H. Ashton (Hon. Secretary). After a question of Sunday and Bank holiday hours had been disposed of, it was resolved to write to the Insurance Committee on the following matters:

That medical men should be asked to time their prescriptions. That they cease writing "rep. mist.," as that is unfair to the spirit of the Act, which is to give free choice of chemist.

That no undue preference should be given to any particular chemist by the doctor.

The question of stock mixtures.

It was also resolved to advertise in the local Press the hours at which medicine can be obtained by insured persons.

Huddersfield.—At a special meeting of the Huddersfield Chemists' Association, held at the Queen Hotel on February 4, with Mr. H. E. Spurr in the chair, it was reported that 5,800 prescriptions had been dispensed in the county borough. It was unanimously decided to use distilled water when "aq." is ordered.

Leeds.—A meeting of the Leeds Chemists' Association, held at the Grand Central Hotel on February 5, was addressed by Mr. W. L. Currie, member of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society. The President of the Association (Mr. S. R. Mundell) occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance. The President, in opening the proceedings, referred in touching terms to the *Death of Mr. E. Newdall*, and said the sympathy of all the members would go out to the widow and son in their loss. It was resolved to send a vote of condolence to the family. Mr. W. L. Currie then addressed the meeting on *The Working of the Insurance Act*. He said he had commenced at once to be very firm in refusing to supply anything that is not on the tariff. He had had prescriptions containing various unlisted appliances, but he had communicated with the doctors concerned, and he could only recommend his hearers to be similarly firm. There were a great many anomalies in the general tariff, but the chemists were in honour bound to adhere to it for the three months. The tariff is the most mixed-up affair he had ever known, and he had been surprised that it had ever been passed by the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee. He feared that, instead of the tariff going up, there would be an inclination to go down. This would be a very serious thing for chemists. The question of repetitions was a very serious one. In Glasgow and the North chemists are not prepared to accept any repetitions unless the doctors agreed to the chemists' terms. As to stock mixtures, they should not under any condition recognise them. It is the first step towards big dispensaries. He would urge them not to give the public any cause to think the chemist is supplying inferior goods to insured persons. He urged that the chemist should not make any arrangement with a medical man to allow the latter to do night dispensing. Such an action would be, for the chemist, the beginning of the end. Mr. J. H. Beacock, Mr. F. Pilkington Sargeant, and others spoke.

Lochelly.—At the last meeting of the West of Fife Chemists' Association it was unanimously agreed to keep only the best quality of drugs, as in the past, and to trust to the fairness and common-sense of the Insurance Commissioners to give adequate remuneration at an early date.

London County.—A meeting of the Executive of London County Association of Pharmacists was held at Bloomsbury Square, W.C., on January 28. The report of the Representative Meeting was laid before the committee and discussed. The following recommendations were agreed upon for adoption by each local Association in London:

1. That offers of payment for repeat mixtures by insured persons should be refused, and patients should be referred to doctors.

2. That no ruling on dispensing-fee for single powders having been obtained, single uncompounded powders on tariff should bear no dispensing-fee, but a dispensing-fee should be charged on any uncompounded non-tariff powder.

3. That only those surgical appliances specified on the tariff and referred to in paragraph 27 of the Regulations are chargeable to the Insurance Committee. As the Insurance Committee is not liable for any other appliances ordered by a doctor, the insured persons should be asked to meet the cost of same (*i.e.* to pay like an ordinary customer) if prescribed.

4. That no late dispensing-fee be asked for the present, as the same would, of course, be payable out of the drug fund, causing a cash shortage for drug bills.

5. That lotions and other external liquids, although they do not contain a schedule poison, should be dispensed—as customary—in poison-bottles and charged to the Insurance Committee.

6. That homeopathic medicines should be prescribed on pink form.

7. That any non-tariff drug ordered on green form should be marked "non-tariff drug," and the green form then filed with the pink ones, upon which all non-tariff drugs ought to be written.

Manchester.—At the meeting called by the Pharmaceutical Insurance Committee on January 29 admittance was only gained on presenting the invitation leaflet sent out by the Committee. Mr. F. W. Bates presided over a company numbering considerably over a hundred. Mr. G. A. Mallinson (Hon. Secretary) gave several useful hints in regard to filing prescriptions. At the request of the Chairman, members wrote on slips of paper the number of prescriptions they had dispensed, and also questions with regard to doubtful points in connection with the prescription-pricing. Mr. Harry Kemp, a member of the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee, answered a large number of questions. He said if chemists would only study the tariff, and charge the prescriptions according to its strict wording, they would fare better at the quarter's end than those who systematically overcharged their prescriptions. The "Rept. Mist." trouble was also much in evidence. Mr. Kemp advised chemists not to refuse to dispense repeats. The original prescription should be copied either on the front or (if there is not room) on the back of the form, and at the first opportunity the prescriber should be got to initial it. Without the doctor's signature the Insurance Committee were less likely to accept it as *bona fide*. He said that is the way the Committee's experts will look at it. The prescriptions dispensed by seventy-four chemists who handed in slips of paper averaged out about twenty-five per day per chemist.—Our correspondent, writing on Wednesday, states that many chemists in industrial districts have much difficulty in keeping pace with Insurance dispensing, 100 a day being a common number. Instead of the novelty wearing off, it seems to be growing. One chemist says his Insurance account averaged over 12½ a week. The majority of prescriptions are simple mixtures, very few being for pills. Of 650 dispensed at one pharmacy, 634 were mixtures, no pills, and only three for powders. Bandages numbered five, and ointments eight. In connection with the Wednesday closing-day movement, many chemists are favourable to a rota being formed in each district. Messrs. Boots, Ltd., now open on Sundays, and on the early-closing day in the evening.

Middlesex.—The committee of the County Association of Pharmacists decided at its last meeting to ask for a late fee of 6d. on all prescriptions marked "Urgent" by the doctor and presented between the hours of 11 P.M. and 6 A.M. It was also decided to recommend all pharmacists in the county to use the Codex formulæ for stock mixtures in dispensing prescriptions where the prescriber's wishes are not otherwise indicated. It is felt desirable that a reprint of the formulæ in a handy pamphlet form should be available for chemists to distribute to their medical friends. It was decided to recommend the Middlesex Insurance Committee to publish the panel lists in book form. They also suggest that the list should be available for inspection in all the post-offices in the county. Mr. Arthur E. Bailey, Secretary of the Association, asks all pharmacists in the county to check their names on the printed panel which can be seen in any panel-doctor's surgery, and to report all inaccuracies to the Clerk to the Committee, 13 Victoria Street, Westminster.

Mid-Lanark.—A meeting of the Mid-Lanark Pharmaceutical Association was held at Motherwell on January 29. The President (Mr. Thos. Scott) occupied the chair, and there were twenty-five members present. The question of dispensing for dependents took up most of the time of the meeting. Mr. Walls reported that the Motherwell doctors had agreed to pay tariff rates for dispensing for dependents. Mr. Wm. Ferguson (Motherwell) thanked Messrs. Walls (Bothwell) and Lohar and Reekie (Hamilton) for the work they have done on behalf of the Association. He mentioned that every member of the craft in Motherwell is also a member of the Association, and pointed out that though the doctors recognise and admit the reasonableness of the pharmacists' demands, the result of the negotiations would in all probability have been otherwise had the Mid-Lanark Association not been formed. A general discussion on pricing of Insurance prescriptions followed, the Secretary

explaining in detail the scheme of pricing as arranged by a committee of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Chemists' Association, and promised that members would receive a copy as soon as the list was available. In regard to the late fee for dispensing, it was agreed that the Insurance Committees should be approached, with a view to securing a minimum late fee of 6d. for prescriptions dispensed between the hours of 8 P.M. and 8 A.M. and after 1 P.M. on Wednesdays: the fee to be chargeable only on prescriptions marked by the doctor "Urgent."

Nottingham.—The local "Express" of February 3 states: "It is estimated that already between three and four thousand Insurance prescriptions have been dealt with in the city, and so far everything appears to have been running smoothly." "Rushes" occur at times, one chemist receiving twenty scripts in twenty-five minutes. A "prominent local chemist" informed the "Express" representative that the city water is so good that only in a few cases is it necessary to use the distilled water. The use of aqua fontana, except in special instances, would probably mean a saving of something like 800£ a year.

Perth.—A meeting of the Perthshire Pharmacists' Association was held in the Grand Hotel, Perth, on January 29. Mr. Donald (President) in the chair, when the National Insurance tariff for drugs, etc., was fully discussed. The conclusions arrived at were as follows:

1. It was unanimously resolved to urge a special dispensing-fee after business hours.

2. To have the minimum price per item increased to 1d., also urge the necessity of dispensing-fee for drugs, etc., from bulk. Local prescriptions for acid. borie. 1 oz., price 1d., being instanced as absolutely unremunerative without dispensing-fee.

3. Mr. Scott, Callander, and Mr. Petrie, Blairgowrie, strongly protested against the one-mile limit, and advocated entire abolition of distance, the limit meantime depriving rural chemists of much dispensing and causing inconvenience to patients. Dispensing in sparsely populated districts should be left entirely to chemists.

4. Charging of containers instead of deposit, owing to danger of contagion by infectious diseases, etc.

5. Unremunerative-priced drugs and those priced under cost to have price increased.

6. Scottish tariff to be 50 per cent. on cost. Tariff in many cases not allowing for quality usually stocked by Scottish chemists.

Plymouth.—The quarterly meeting of the Plymouth, Devonport, Stonehouse, and District Association of Pharmacists was held at Plymouth on January 28, the President (Mr. A. J. Ancliffe) in the chair. There was a good attendance. The question was discussed of what to do when "Rep. mist." occurs on an Insurance prescription, and it was resolved that the date of the prescriptions should be written on all labels, and in case of repeats the date of the original prescription. The following members were elected: Mr. Hosking, Stonehouse; Mr. F. W. Towan, Devonport; Miss B. Robinson, St. Budeaux; Mr. Rutherford, Ivy Bridge.

Scotland.—The Scottish Insurance Commissioners, in a published reply to a correspondent dated January 31, mention that statements to the effect that insured persons must necessarily be supplied with drugs, medicine, and appliances of inferior quality are unfounded. On the contrary, the supply of drugs and medicine of inferior quality would render the chemist liable to legal proceedings being taken against him. The Commissioners would regard as an infringement of the terms of the agreement:

(1) The substitution by the chemist dispensing a prescription of drugs and medicines other than those ordered on the prescribed forms by the doctor as being required for the treatment; or

(2) Any attempt to obtain from an insured person a payment additional to that from the fund on the ground that the drugs or medicines prescribed were of inferior quality, and that better qualities had been substituted.

The letter continues: "A chemist cannot provide as a charge on the drug-fund a 'repeat' order by an insured person except on a prescription order from the doctor, and it must be assumed that the doctor has advisedly prescribed the quantity appropriate for the treatment of the case. The chemist is not entitled to usurp the functions of the doctor and at his own hand continue the supply of medicines."

Sheffield.—Insurance dispensing is working much more smoothly. The preparation of a local pharmacopoeia, as desired by the doctors, is under discussion, considerable differences of opinion existing on this matter among pharmacists. A correspondent in one of the local papers complains that insured persons are not given as much attention by the chemist as ordinary customers. The complaint is vague without evidence that it is well founded. Mr. Gilbert Jackson, the Secretary of the Sheffield Pharmaceutical and Chemical Society, says he considers a very good service is being given. He thinks the public and the medical men should be satisfied.

Somerset.—The Sub-committee on February 1 reported to the Insurance Committee that the Commissioners had decided that drugs, etc., could not be supplied by the

stock and District Friendly Society Institute unless a proper dispenser was appointed. The Institute Committee did not see their way to appoint a dispenser at present. Therefore medicines would have to be obtained by patients from a local chemist on the list.

Southport.—At a meeting of the Southport Insurance Committee, held at the Town Hall on January 30, the Town Clerk read the minutes of the meeting of the Medical Benefit Sub-committee, held the previous day, which reported that a deputation from the Southport Chemists' Association, consisting of Messrs. Hare, Battersby, Righton, Joye, and Barton, representing the chemists on the panel, appeared before the Committee and asked to be permitted to charge a special dispensing-fee of 3d. on prescriptions marked by the doctor "Urgent" presented after 8.30 P.M. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and before 8.30 A.M. the following morning, after 9.30 P.M. on Saturdays, and before 8.30 A.M. on Sundays, and at any time on Sundays except between the hours of noon and 1 P.M. or 8 P.M. and 9 P.M. The deputation also drew attention to the fact that doctors are prescribing on pink forms expensive drugs not on the tariff. The deputation desired an instruction from the sub-committee as to their position in the matter. A telegram was read from the Insurance Commissioners agreeing to the Committee permitting the chemists to make the suggested charge if the doctors on the panel raised no objection. The deputation were informed that the Committee would communicate with the doctors with reference to supplying drugs not on the tariff. It was resolved that the application of the chemists with reference to charging a special dispensing-fee of 3d. for urgent prescriptions be granted on condition that the panel doctors raise no objection. At a subsequent meeting the Insurance Committee refused the application of the two medical practitioners at Crossens, Southport, to dispense medicines for insured persons. Alderman Griffith, a member of the committee, suggests there is an opening for a pharmacy in this neighbourhood, where there are over 300 insured persons.

Stoke.—At a meeting of the Insurance Committee on February 6, the Clerk reported that the Insurance Commissioners had not sanctioned the amendments made by the Committee to the drug-list, to the effect that no deposits should be returned unless the container was returned to the chemist with the chemist's label intact and in a clean condition. The Commissioners insisted on the deletion of the words "with the chemist's label intact." Several applications from chemists to be included in the list of chemists for the area were received subsequent to January 14. The Clerk advised that additions to the list might only be made at the date of the revision of the list, except in the case of chemists commencing to carry on business during the currency of the list. The Clerk reported that he had received complaints from chemists on the panel with regard to certain doctors advising insured persons to take prescriptions to a specified chemist. It was resolved that, as such practice interferes with free choice of chemist, the doctors on the panel be circularised, with a view of preventing the practice for the future. A complaint was also received from chemists of the practice of doctors on the panel issuing repeat orders to chemists. A resolution similar to the latter was also passed on this subject, with an instruction to doctors to re-write all prescriptions. The Committee cannot recognise such repeat orders written after January 31.

Tynemouth.—After negotiations between the local Medical Committee and the Pharmacists' Association, the Medical Committee have unanimously agreed:

"That a late fee be paid for all prescriptions marked 'Urgent' after the hours already agreed upon, and that in no case will the late dispensing-fee be deducted from the floating sixpence."

The late fee of 6d. is to be paid on prescriptions received between 8.30 P.M. and 8.30 A.M. (except Saturday night), 1 P.M. and 7 P.M. on Wednesday, and 10 P.M. on Saturday and 8.30 A.M. on Monday. Service is also to be provided between 7 and 8.30 P.M. on Wednesdays without extra fee. General holidays are to be classed as Sundays. The local Medical Committee pointed out that the present hour of opening on Sundays is inconvenient, and it was decided, in view of the fact that only urgent prescriptions are to be dispensed, that the chemists substitute 8.30 P.M. in place of 8 P.M.

Insurance Notes.

FILING PRESCRIPTIONS.—Messrs. James Townsend & Sons, Exeter, inform us that they had already prepared a book on the lines described by Mr. H. W. Harrie in the *C. & D.* last week.

HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICINES.—A deputation has pointed out to Mr. Harcourt, M.P., that difficulty is being experienced in Rawtenstall (Lancs) in getting homœopathic prescriptions prescribed under the National Insurance Act dispensed.

Mr. Harcourt promised to bring the matter before the Commissioners, and a reply has been received from Mr. Masterman that under the circumstances homœopathic doctors are to be allowed to dispense homœopathic medicines.

ALLEGED INCIVILITY AND OVERWORK.—"You Insurance patients must wait!" is the statement put into the mouth of a chemist by a representative of the "Manchester Evening News" in a half-column article in the issue of January 30 on "Chemists under the Act." It is typical of others appearing in the public Press, and would appear to emanate from the expectation of a certain class of the public of instant service, regardless of the fact that it takes time to compound, label, and wrap even the simplest preparation prescribed. The article continues: "In nearly every shop in the Lancashire town referred to above our representative found that the limited accommodation provided for customers was fully occupied, and in some cases they overflowed into the streets. In all fourteen shops were visited, and of these six were under unqualified men. Of the remaining eight two are not on the panel. Both of these last-mentioned chemists expressed themselves as perfectly satisfied to remain off the panel, one of them frankly saying that he could not stand the physical strain of undertaking the extra business." It was stated that only two of the unqualified men found themselves at a disadvantage owing to the Act. One of these has determined to qualify. The other "unqualified" chemists said their business had improved, probably owing to the overflow from the panel chemists near by. Several said they were doing a better counter trade than usual.

"A SHORT PHARMACOPEIA for the Use of Medical Practitioners and Chemists Working under the National Health Insurance Act, compiled by C. B. Moss-Blundell, M.D., D.P.H., County Medical Officer for Huntingdonshire," is the title of a thirty-two page booklet (half of the pages blank), published by D. Cooper & Co., Huntingdon, at 6d. It contains formulæ (with Insurance prices) for unofficial eye-washes, eye-drops, gargles, draughts, liniments, lotions, and mixtures in common use.

WESTMINSTER WISDOM.

The Week in Parliament.

NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT.

Questions are being put daily to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary to the Treasury regarding the administration of medical benefit. In most instances the questions show ignorance of the regulations made under Section 15, and the answers given are either drawn from the regulations or from printed statements issued from time to time by the Commissioners. We therefore give these questions and answers the briefest possible space, unless where the subject is one of really first-class importance.

Persons over Sixty-five.—Mr. Masterman intimated on Monday that the Commissioners will issue this week a table for the guidance of Friendly Societies in determining the benefit for persons who were over sixty-five on July 15 last, and who receive medical attendance and treatment.

Payment of Doctors.—Replying to Mr. Cassel on January 30, Mr. Masterman stated that, although the regulations contemplated quarterly payments, arrangements may be made by Insurance Committees for payments on account during the quarter. He added that the lists of patients sent in by the doctors will be checked by the Insurance Committees from lists furnished by the societies, and not from the medical tickets.

Ailments of Insured Persons.—In replying to Sir Henry Craik on Tuesday, Mr. Masterman explained once more how the doctor's day-book records are drawn up in such a way that the ailments from which the insured persons suffer are not communicated to the Insurance Committee. For the Commissioners' statistical purposes the records do not reveal the names of the persons.

Rural Doctors' Dispensing.—Mr. Masterman explained to Mr. Wright, the member for Leominster, on Tuesday that rural doctors who are authorised to dispense for their own patients are paid 9s. a head, inclusive of the tuberculosis 6d. Mr. Wright remarked that some counties' Local Insurance Committees are paying only 1s. 6d., and not 2s., for dispensing. Mr. Masterman replied that he would look into any case that the hon. member might bring to his notice, at the same time explaining the 1s. 6d. plus 6d. arrangement.

Dispensers.—Mr. Touche asked the Secretary to the Treasury on Tuesday whether a person qualified to dispense medicines solely by virtue of having acted as a dispenser to a duly qualified medical practitioner, or a public institution, for three years immediately prior to the passing of the Act

is entitled to dispense medicines containing poisons to insured persons.—Mr. Masterman replied in the negative, and added that persons who are not themselves registered pharmacists have been held under the Pharmacy Acts to be precluded from dispensing such medicines, and the position of such of them as are referred to is not affected by the Act.

A series of three questions was put on Wednesday by Mr. Cassel, the member for St. Pancras: (1) In regard to a man who has been connected with the drug-trade one way or another for twenty-five years, but has not qualified, and is debarred from dispensing under the Act. (2) As to the rights of apothecaries' assistants not being preserved by Section 15, and if the livelihood of such individuals would not be imperilled. (3) The third question was as follows:

To ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he can suggest any means whereby those *bonâ fide* chemists who fulfil the conditions of Clause 3 (3) of the Medicine Stamp Act and are qualified to compound and dispense known, admitted, and approved formulas, and have acted as dispensary assistants or managers to chemists and druggists, and also all dispensers of three years' standing to doctors and public institutions, may submit their claims to dispense under the National Insurance Act either through the London and Provincial Druggists' Association or direct to the Insurance Commissioners, with suitable provisions for dealing with any objection to any name in a manner which will satisfy the Association.

Apothecaries' Assistant.—Besides the question put by Mr. Cassel on Wednesday, two were put by Mr. Worthington Evans to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, one asking if apothecaries' assistants are debarred from dispensing under the Act, and whether he proposes to introduce amending legislation to give effect to his pledge of August 2, 1911, that no one who is entitled to dispense should be cut out and that those already carrying on business should be protected. Mr. Masterman, in an omnibus reply, said:

Clause 15 of the Insurance Act prohibits arrangements being made for the dispensing of medicines with persons other than persons, firms, or bodies corporate entitled to carry on the business of a chemist and druggist under the provisions of the Pharmacy Acts, 1868 and 1908. Unqualified persons who for three years immediately prior to the passing of the Act have acted as dispensers to duly qualified medical practitioners or to public institutions have a right under the Act to dispense in the service of such persons, firms, or bodies corporate, with the same rights and limitations as those existing before the passing of the Act. This clause was deliberately approved by the House after a full debate and without a division. On an amendment proposing to extend such a right to dispense to persons qualified under the Apothecaries Act of 1815, my right hon. friend promised that no one who was qualified to dispense before the passing of the Act should be cut out of the Act, and a subsection protecting the interests of these persons was inserted on the Report stage. The Commissioners have no power to alter this decision of Parliament, nor have I any evidence at present that Parliament desires (apart from the possibility of meeting special cases of hardship) that dispensing under the Act should be generally done by unqualified persons.

Mr. Worthington Evans asked whether the right hon. gentleman was aware that the undertaking given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer was not carried out in the amendments inserted on Report.—Mr. Masterman: Oh, yes; I think it was carried out.

Mr. O'Grady asked whether it is not a fact that the men referred to were qualified to dispense, and did so for a number of years; that a great monopoly is being placed in the hands of the Pharmaceutical Society chemists; that many of these men are suffering in their business even to the extent of bankruptcy; and that the whole question is fast becoming a public scandal.—Mr. Masterman: I do not think the gentlemen in question were qualified to dispense except under the supervision of medical men. The subject, however, is a proper one for discussion rather than for question and answer on the floor of the House.

Doctors' Dispensers.—On Thursday Major Hope asked if Mr. Masterman was aware that a London firm of wholesale chemists has been inundated with applications from dispensers who have had to leave their employment owing to the Act, and that in the majority of cases they had been unable to get situations as chemists' assistants. In view of the hardship, Major Hope asked the Commissioners to make regulations to allow dispensers of three years' standing to go on the panels. He also in another question desired to know if the proprietor of a drug-store who has dispensed for fifteen years is now debarred from so doing under the Act unless he has a registered pharmacist on the premises.

A number of additional questions were down for Thursday. Mr. G. Locker-Lampson, for instance, wanted to know whether medical benefit includes modern methods of exact

diagnosis, such as pathological and bacteriological research; Mr. Keir Hardie inquired whether any arrangements had been made whereby doctors on the panels who are homœopaths may themselves supply their patients with drugs, and in particular with such drugs as are not usually kept in stock by the ordinary chemist; and Major Hope asked for a definition of the position of a man who served his apprenticeship to a registered chemist, has dispensed for three years prior to the passing of the Act for a medical man, and has been told by the local Insurance Committee that they cannot give him a certificate to show that he is qualified to dispense under the Act.

Sanatorium Benefit.—In the House of Commons on January 30 Mr. Cassel asked whether it is to be taken as a rule when the doctor orders ancillary treatment in the case of tuberculosis that the things are not to be supplied?—In reply, Mr. Masterman said: No; only the articles which can be legally supplied under the Act which rules the ancillary treatment of tuberculosis. They are not confined to cod-liver oil and extract of malt, but the Insurance Committee have no power to supply coal or bread and meat.

Dovercourt Again.—Mr. Masterman, replying to another question by Mr. Newton as to the dispensing panel at Dovercourt, said he was informed by the Essex Insurance Committee that there is no separate panel for Dovercourt; that the gentleman referred to in the question was placed on the first list, but that as he has not signed the formal agreement required to be signed by persons desiring to supply medicines for insured persons, his name will be taken off the revised list, which is now in proof. The Committee reported the number of acceptances received from chemists, etc., on January 1. This report showed eleven acceptancees for the rural district of Tendring, in which Dovercourt is situated. As this number appeared to be adequate for the services of that district, the Commissioners authorised the Committee to proceed with the necessary arrangements. An additional chemist has now joined the panel, and there are at the present moment eleven chemists in the Tendring rural district, including one in Harwich, of which Dovercourt is practically a suburb, and the Committee are of opinion that insured persons living in Dovercourt will therefore have no difficulty in obtaining medicine.

Surgical Appliances.—The Marquess of Tullibardine has formed quite a collection of specimens of lint, medicated wool, bandages, etc., which are being supplied by some of the wholesale houses, and which it is alleged are of inferior quality. The noble lord, who is one of the most ubiquitous and popular of all the Scottish members, states that some of these bandages would certainly bind up the broken leg of a fowl, but would be perfectly useless in the case of a child. These come under the description of "Insurance Act quality," while a Lancashire paper advertises for sale "washed bandages and drugs suitable for chemists on the National Insurance Act panels." Replying on Wednesday to further questions by the noble lord, Mr. Masterman said: The splints prescribed in the list of appliances are not restricted to arm splints, and the bandages are not restricted as to length, as suggested by the noble lord. The gauze and lint referred to were included because some doctors attach importance to their use under certain conditions, but doctors, may, of course, use them or not, as they please. I am advised that the surgical dressings included in the list are adequate for the treatment of the surgical cases which fall within the scope of medical benefit.—The Marquess asked whether it is a fact that these splints can be got, and are in the schedule.—Mr. Masterman said he understood that splints and other apparatus can be obtained which are required for those surgical cases which fall within "medical benefits."—The Marquess inquired why, if a broken arm comes within the category, a broken leg does not. (Laughter.)—Mr. Masterman replied that splints are not restricted to arms.

Herbalists.—Sir J. D. Rees is asking next Tuesday whether an insured person is entitled to the services of a herbalist instead of a doctor when desired.

MEDICAL BENEFIT IN IRELAND.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer stated in the House of Commons on Tuesday that Lord Ashby St. Ledgers as Chairman; Mr. Hugh T. Barrie, Mr. Joseph Devlin, and Mr. J. C. R. Lardner, members of this House; Mr. J. Bradbury, of the Treasury; Mr. T. J. Stafford, medical member of the Local Government Board for Ireland; Mr. J. A. Glynn and Dr. W. J. Maguire, Chairman and medical member respectively of the National Health Insurance Commission for Ireland; and Mr. W. L. Micks, a member of the Congested Districts Board for Ireland, have been appointed a Committee "To consider and report as to the advisability of applying to Ireland the provisions

of the National Insurance Act, 1911, with respect to medical benefit, and as to the alterations, legislative and otherwise, which, in the event of such provisions being applied, would be desirable in the system for affording medical relief at the present existing."

MEDICAL SERVICE IN THE HIGHLANDS.

Our Parliamentary correspondent learns that the special item, to which allusion was made by the Secretary for Scotland in the House of Commons on Tuesday, which is to appear in the supplementary estimates for improved medical service in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, arising out of the recent report of the Committee presided over by Sir John Dewar, M.P., involves a sum of 32,000*l.* This is quite apart from the 30,000*l.* which it is proposed to vote in connection with the National Insurance Act. Mr. McKinnon Wood has stated that the report of Sir John Dewar's Committee is receiving the sympathetic consideration of the Government, and that an improved medical service is urgently needed.

THE SHOPS ACT.

The Home Secretary informed Sir J. Randles, M.P., on Tuesday that he has no reason to think that the Shops Act is causing any general inconvenience or loss to retail traders. Here and there there may be cases where traders find some initial difficulty in adjusting their arrangements to the new conditions, but the general testimony is that the Act is beneficial and is working well. He would consider whether a deputation as regards the choice of days for closing would prove advantageous.

SPECIAL DRUG FUND.

The sum of 30,000*l.*, representing a special drug fund, is included in the 1,825,000*l.* required in the year ending March 31 for grants in aid of National Health Insurance (United Kingdom). The special drug fund has reference to Great Britain only, and will be paid to a special account administered by the Joint Committee. It will be applied by way of special grants towards the cost of drugs where an epidemic or other abnormal conditions have caused an excessive demand upon the funds available for this purpose.

GAS COMPANIES' RESIDUALS.

Our Parliamentary correspondent is informed that it is quite likely the gas companies may introduce in the course of next Session a Bill for the purpose of repealing the clauses which were inserted this Session in several Bills relating to the question of gas residuals. In that case there would be a very full debate on the whole question, and the attitude of the Parliamentary Committees which considered the whole question would come up for criticism. A Committee of the Alkali Manufacturers' Association has already considered the question, and a further meeting of the whole body will be held next week.

CATALOGUES TO AUSTRALIA.

The Colonial Secretary announced, in reply to Mr. Newdegate, M.P., that under the Commonwealth of Australia Customs tariff trade-catalogues are liable to a duty at 6*d.* per pound, or 35 per cent. *ad valorem*, whichever rate returns the higher duty. In cases where the total duty on any one mail addressed by any one consignor to any one State of the Commonwealth does not exceed 1*s.* the payment of the duty is waived. Representations have on several occasions been made to the Australian Government, but that Government has not seen its way to alter the duty, and no useful purpose would be served by making further representations at the moment.

THE UNITED ALKALI CO.

Mr. Buxton was asked, in the House of Commons on Monday, whether the boilermakers, blacksmiths, bricklayers, and stonemasons employed at Deacon's Works, Widnes, are insured under Part II. of the Act; if not, whether the umpire has given decisions in the cases of these men, and what is the name of the firm or company employing these men. The President replied that contributions were not being paid in respect of the workmen referred to. The umpire has not given any decisions specifically relating to these men. He understood that the name of the company employing these workmen is the

United Alkali Co., Ltd. Mr. Worthington Evans asked what steps it was proposed to take to treat the United Alkali Co. in the same way as other firms, and Mr. Robertson said he was not aware that they were not so treated.



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C. & D. INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

Telegraphic Address: "CHEMICUS CANNON LONDON" (two words).

Telephone Number: BANK 852 (two lines).

INFORMATION WANTED.

Would any reader who knows please inform us by postcard or telephone of the names and addresses of the agents or makers of the articles mentioned in the following inquiries:

- 224/240. "Taklis": proprietors.
- 222/44. Morley's naphthol soap: makers.
- 222/46. "Dermine" dog-soap: suppliers.
- 224/7. Nicholls & Sellers: present address.
- 220/20. "Pinola" herb tablets: suppliers.
- 227/29. "Vitrurio Chemical Co.": address.
- 221/15. "Red Diamond" bandages: makers.
- 224/21. Villiard's sterilising tablets: suppliers.
- 225/39. Capsicum wool (Vivash & Webb): supply.
- 224/24. "Rumoids": makers or first-hand supply.
- 226/50. British makers of rubber surgeons' gloves.
- 216/49 and 221/15. "Toledo" spray (for dental use): supply.
- 220/65. Sterry's "Poor Man's Plasters": address of makers.
- 216/33. Allen's Herb Co. (makers of "Oregon Herb"): address.
- 217/64. "Mandarin (Flora)": made by "Johnson, London": suppliers.
- 220/57. "Crown" perfume-diffuser (small, white enamelled metal tube fitted with gilt crown sprinkler).
- 221/49. British agents for the Louis Leaky Aluminium Co., makers of a circular metal perforated label-damper.

INFORMATION SUPPLIED.

During the past week we have answered inquiries as to where the following articles are obtainable wholesale. We shall be glad to repeat the information to others who send to this Department a stamped and addressed envelope for the purpose.

- | | |
|---|---|
| Acetanilid (German makers), 220/27 | Koronium bromide, 226/35 |
| Aleuronat proteid (Hundhausen), 218/40 | Lait gallia, 218/41 |
| "Artist" safety-razor, 207/53 | "Leolys" perfume, 218/41 |
| Atoxyl iron tablets, 225/15 | Llewellyn's cuticle-fluid, 225/70 |
| Bisurated magnesia, 222/43 | Methylated spirit (manufacturers), 222/56 |
| Blenosan capsules, 219/71 | Morris's egg-yellow, 218/610 |
| Cornflour (Russian inquiry), 226/4 | Murray & Lanman Florida water, 218/61 |
| Dental jelly, 225/17 | Oleic acid, 218/38 |
| Dermine, 222/46 | "Orain" tablets, 222/55 |
| Exalgin, 225/68 | Paper towels, 219/61 |
| Filling machines (for castor oil, etc.), 221/61 | Sand balls, 223/39 |
| Guild's "Green Mountain" asthma-cure, 224/22 | Soap dispensers (liquid), 219/610 |
| "Jaffa" suspensories, 220/11 | "Suberit" compound cork, 221/47 |
| Japan wax, 222/6 | Thermometer makers, 222/74 |
| Kolcne, 220/20 | "Vanco" soap, 225/44 |

APPRECIATIONS.

From a Notts Pharmacist:

"I am very much obliged to you for your prompt reply to my query. . . . I think the Information Department is a splendid feature of your valuable journal, and a real help to subscribers. It demonstrates your progressive policy and keenness to "keep on top." (169/15.)

From an Historic Proprietary-medicine House:

"We appreciate your good services given from time to time, referring to us inquiries which we are usually able to reply to, and which are frequently followed by satisfactory orders." (190/54.)

OBSERVATIONS & REFLECTIONS.

By Xrayser II.

More than Eight

out of the thirty-two pages comprised in our last week's issue were occupied with matters arising out of or connected with Insurance dispensing. If this is anything like a true index of the relative importance of the work in the total of the pharmacist's business, we may conclude that so far as we are concerned the probable effect of the Act has not been exaggerated. Most of the disturbance it has occasioned may be set down as merely temporary, and a good deal of it as factitious, since there was no real occasion for it, but on the other hand it is certain that the change of conditions upon which we are entering will be increasingly felt as time goes on. In attempting to co-ordinate the various facts and opinions which find expression in your pages, my first feeling is one of commiseration with your staff, followed quickly by one of admiration of the thoroughness with which the difficulties submitted to you, from the greatest to those which are almost negligible, are dealt with in your interjected remarks. Our sympathy is being demanded for the doctor in his unwonted clerical work, and for the pharmacist embittered by the "nearest $\frac{1}{2}d.$ " difficulty, but I trust your readers will not refuse you also a contributory ear. You have as yet made no complaint, though you stand to gain nothing by the Herculean labour thus thrust upon you; may I suggest to your more pessimistic correspondents that a like reticence on their part would not be amiss? There is doubtless a certain wisdom in the old law, "Never count your gains," but there is equal reason for not exaggerating one's losses. My private inquiries in various quarters, both in town and country, convince me that Insurance dispensing is already proving a distinct gain, and well worth its cost. I have received assurances to this effect from pharmacists of very different grades, and though most of my friends show a healthy disposition to grumble when they can, the postscript is invariably something of this sort: "Of course it pays—in a way." Can we say much more than that of any department of our business?

The Demand for Assistants

referred to by you last week, and mainly shown by the plethoric condition of your coloured supplement, will grow, and the probability is that the market value of assistants will rise. Whether the supply is going to be recruited from the ranks of the dispensers who have hitherto been employed by medical men, as suggested by you, is very doubtful. I do not think it is, and my reason is founded on a conversation with a medical friend no later than yesterday. This doctor has a partner, and hitherto they have themselves always done their own dispensing, both for private and club patients. If your reasoning were correct, these doctors would find half their dispensing occupation gone. Not so. The volume may have been considerably reduced, but the more valuable portion remains, and they are not going to give it up. Here comes the trouble, however; they have already 2,500 names on their list of insured persons, and more are being added every day, and they are so busy with attending the insured and private practice that they cannot find time to do their dispensing for the latter patients. The result is that they are on the look-out for a dispenser! Now, this case is likely to be common, the outcome is going to be an actual decrease instead of an increase in available dispensers.

The Permanence of Tinctures

appears to be well established by the evidence in your Winter Issue article, and I am glad to observe that we can rely on the great majority of our galenicals even if they are a few years old. This is an important in view of Insurance Act dispensing, for

scores of pharmacists will doubtless be relying on stocks of tinctures that may quite possibly be venerable. There is one preparation that your contributor has failed to mention—*ipecacuanha* wine—which is far from stable. Any preparation of an alkaloidal drug that contains tannin, and which is made with a weak spirit, deteriorates quite rapidly, though where a strong spirit is the menstruum there is not so much danger. The chief liquid preparations that deserve attention are tincture of *digitalis*, *ipecacuanha* wine, and liquid extracts of *ergot* and *coca*. These should be frequently replenished. We cannot, as pharmacists, allow discredit to be thrown on our dispensing by the use of stale drugs.

The Department of Agriculture

of the United States Government, the work carried on by which is so well described in Mr. William Mair's interesting article, is just such an institution as one would expect to find in a go-ahead country like America. In the old country we often pride ourselves on our individuality and on that private initiative to which, as Mr. Mair points out, is left much of the work that is done in the Bureau of Agriculture, and many of us are apt to scoff at the tremendous amount of energy that is put into every ramification of business life, educational methods, and the utilisation of science in the solution of the problems that constantly confront the worker. Considering the wonderful range of subjects embraced, the annual cost of 100,000*l.* seems very small; but, small as it is, I wonder how it compares with the amount which we spend on similar work here? I suppose that in the Government Laboratory, Kew Gardens, and the Imperial Institute a great amount of original work must be done, but I confess I am very ignorant regarding it. I know we have the men, for there are no better trained chemists and botanists in the world, and with a development fund eating its head off we ought to have the money; but is that great capacity turned into the proper channels? We want more driving force, so that this material may be put to the best advantage, and for a start the frequently suggested question of drug culture might well be taken in hand.

Sibthorp's "*Flora Græca*,"

one of the rarest, most sumptuous, and most expensively produced works ever devoted to botanical science, has a pathetic interest when we consider the story of its originator, John, son of Humphry Sibthorp. Both father and son were in turn Professors of Botany at Oxford, the father for a period of thirty-six years, during which he is said to have delivered but one lecture, and that an unsuccessful one. He was, however, an excellent botanist, and Linnaeus dedicated to him the genus *Sibthorpia*. His son John, born in 1758, matriculated from Lincoln College, and being elected Radcliffe Travelling Professor of University College, went abroad to complete his studies, which he did chiefly at Montpellier. Returning to Oxford, he took his degree as M.D., and after a short tour in Germany and Austria proceeded to Greece for the purpose of "identifying all the plants mentioned by Dioscorides," taking with him Ferdinand Bauer, of Vienna, as artist. He came home again within a year, but went back to Greece shortly afterwards to complete his work, fell ill there, and, returning to England, died at Bath in 1796, leaving nothing of his work completed but the 966 plates by Bauer, which are now, at any rate, its most important feature. By his will he provided for its completion, and in course of time it was published in ten folio volumes, the first of which appeared in 1806, under the editorship of John Edward Smith, M.D. The last three volumes were edited by John Lindley, who completed his task in 1840. The whole work is said to have cost 30,000*l.* It was published by subscription at 240 guineas per volume, and there were only thirty subscribers. A second issue was, however, made in 1845-6, at 63*l.* per volume, for which there were forty subscribers. The plates were engraved by James Sowerby. They are really superb, and it is worth anybody's while who has a reader's ticket to pay a visit to the British Museum for the purpose of seeing them.



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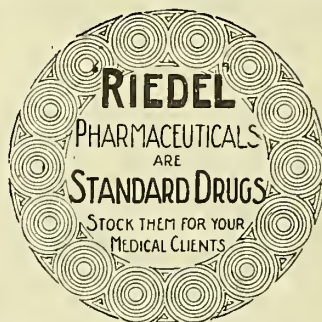
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LIQUORS

Editorial Articles.

A New Epoch in Pharmacy.

VI. Limitations.

EVERYONE in the drug-trade knows that in the Insurance dispensing work there are limitations. One of the most critical at the moment is that which acts as a barrier to unqualified persons engaged in the drug-trade, who are unable to get on the dispensing panels or to do work which the Act specially declares shall only be done by, or under the personal supervision of, registered chemists. The reason is obvious—they are not legally qualified, and the House of Commons recognised this when on August 2, 1911, sub-section 5 (iii.) of the Medical Benefit Section was moved by Mr. Glyn-Jones. The exact terms of his proposals were subsequently altered, but several amendments were brought forward and defeated. Thus Mr. Handel Booth wanted to include in the same category as registered chemists "military dispensers qualified as such by not less than two years' military service." At the suggestion of the Attorney-General this was withdrawn. Dr.

illier also moved the inclusion of "certificated assistants an apothecary," and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, appealing to him to withdraw the amendment, said he understood that apothecaries' assistants were only alified so long as they were under the supervision of a alified chemist. It was not the intention of the Govern- ent to cut out anyone who was regarded as qualified at e present time. If it turned out on further inquiry at anyone already qualified was personally affected, the overnment would be prepared to consider an amendment aling with their particular case." This promise was ade good, for subsequently it was provided in the Act at

Nothing in this Act shall interfere with the rights and ivileges conferred by the Apothecaries Act, 1815, upon y person qualified under that Act to act as an assistant ny apothecary in compounding and dispensing medicines.

is is a complete protection of the existing rights of ch persons, and the questions put on the matter in rliament this week are pretentious if not impertinent. ose who have followed closely the events connected with is subject are aware that many unqualified traders and othecaries' assistants had exaggerated ideas as to what e provision secured for them. The Apothecaries Act es them the right to dispense for licensed apothecaries d nothing else. Whenever such assistants step outside eir employment by apothecaries they have no right in w which unqualified assistants to chemists, or even the n in the street, does not enjoy, and no privilege under e Pharmacy Acts. If they were trading before or when e National Insurance Act passed, we question if the vasion which we have quoted applies to them at all. eing that their legal status in respect to dispensing of icines is only *in esse* while they are employed by othecaries in England and Wales—not in Scotland, and t with medical practitioners who are not apothecaries. uring the past six weeks two score at least of drug-stores ve been turned into limited companies for the purpose of ting on the dispensing panels in accordance with the ms of Section 15 (5, iii.). It appears to be overlooked at mere registration as a company does not meet the re- irements of the Insurance Act. It is necessary before any mpany is put on a panel that it should conform fully th the requirements of the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 188, Section 3 (4, *a* and *b*). Thus the name of the regis- ed chemist who is superintendent of the company has e communicated to the Registrar under the Pharmacy ts, and the business has to be managed by him or some er registered chemist. Until these statutory provisions e complied with no company's name should be put upon a pensing panel. It is quite in the nature of things at at the beginning of the operation of a great measure of social reform like the National Insurance Act some ference of opinion, slowness of appreciation of the facts, d some outcry as to hardships are inevitable. It will e time before everything runs smoothly and everyone ws where he may run and how far. We trust, however, t all engaged in the administration of the Act will p steadily in view the necessity of giving the Act a l trial before tinkering with it in the way of amend- nt.

Since the foregoing was written Mr. Masterman has en his reply to numerous questions on the subject of s note. With reference to Mr. Locker Lampson's and for amendment of the Act, he said :

f and when experience shows that amendment of any ils of the Insurance Act is desirable, legislation embody- uch amendments will undoubtedly be introduced. The nmissioners will be glad to receive at any time and from y quarter any suggestions for possible improvement. icism up to the present, however, has been singularly ren in constructive suggestions.

is was a well-deserved rebuke. The majority of the estions put by members of Parliament show that they ignorant of the Act and the Regulations made under y. They appear also to believe anything that is told m on a sheet of paper with a pretentious heading, the e result being that the time of Parliament is wasted edly.

Mr. Henry Walker.

Celebration of his Jubilee in Association with "The Chemist and Druggist."

ON Monday, February 3, our much-respected publisher, Mr. Henry Walker, commenced the fifty-first year of his association with this journal, and in commemoration of the event Messrs. Morgan Brothers, the founders and proprietors of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, entertained him to dinner in the Balmoral Room of the Trocadero Restaurant, London, the whole of the staff at 42 Cannon Street being invited to meet him. Mr. Gwyn Vaughan Morgan presided, and was supported by the guest of the evening and Mr. Penry Vaughan Morgan. Mr. Glass, publisher of "The Ironmonger"; Mr. MacEwan, editor of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST; and Mr. Meyjes, editor of "The Ironmonger," presided at the spur tables. The menu was embodied in an "H. W. Jubilee Number" of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, which, in miniature, reproduced some of our striking characters: thus the advertising



MR. HENRY WALKER.

space on the front cover was occupied by announcements of half-a-dozen Walker specialties as a background to a picture of Father Time shaking hands with Mr. Walker. A foreword gave an incredible explanation of why "the usual trade announcements" were not inside; then followed a page by the staff poet, who told of the Walkerian five decades in six stanzas, the sixth standing for the diamond jubilee, doubtless—

Justly proud of a service so faithful, ideals consistently kept

(He has lived *C. & D.* in his waking, and dreamt *C. & D.* while he slept);

We but want him to know that we honour the place he has won, and our hope

Is that long may he yet share our labours and help with our trials to cope.

After a page of "Observations and Reflections" by "Eraser" came the Toast-list and Menu. Factitious English News, Irish News, Trade Report, and Retrospect were then given with due solemnity. Two quotations from the Trade Report may strike the stranger as "not bad":

Inset Leaves (Genuine *C. & D.*) more in demand, at firm prices for spot. Other marks are selling at considerably reduced figures on a weak market.

Other Spices. Full-bodied moving at steady rates; halves and, lower qualities stronger, with an upward tendency. All net as per drug-tariff f.o.b. London.

"A Publisher at Play" was the title to a page of thumb-nail sketches of Mr. Walker—"he enjoys a good cricket match, loves a good song, and revels in fun with the lasses and lads; he can handle the cue and at cards he is strong, but the game he likes best is the catching of Ads."

Before coming to 42 Cannon Street Mr. Walker had served a journalistic apprenticeship with Messrs. Cassell, Petter & Galpin in their serial publications department. THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST was an octavo monthly when he came to it, and he has grown with it, being a man of energy, ideas, originality, perseverance, and resource.

One of the purposes of the dinner was the presentation to Mr. Walker by the firm of a valuable silver tea and coffee service, with inscribed tray made in old English design, and from the staff a dinner-table service of silver, consisting of five bowls and four flower-vases, the largest bowl standing on an ebony base with inscription plate. These were given when Mr. Walker's health was drunk, and, in proposing the toast, the Chairman said:

Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is now my great pleasure to address you on the particular subject about which we are gathered together. Before proceeding, I should like to say this with regard to the absence of the senior members of the firm. As many of you are aware, they are getting on in age, and the two who have been more especially associated with the business [Sir Walter Vaughan Morgan, Bart., and Mr. Septimus Vaughan Morgan] are now over eighty years of age, and have to avoid as far as possible going out in the evening. . . . I do not propose to carry you all through the history of the last fifty years; I think there are very few of you who can go back as far as that. I do not mention the ladies in this matter at all, because I do not know how far to go back. The only person who has a right to ask this question is his Majesty's Director of Census, and he does not always get a correct reply. I will touch to a certain extent on Mr. Walker's career. In the first place, as we know, Mr. Walker came to us from Cassell's, at the age of sixteen or seventeen, in the capacity of a junior clerk. I do not suppose that Mr. Walker when he arrived had any particular idea that his rôle in life would lead him along the path which he has followed, and bring him to be the Publisher of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST; but I imagine it was decided for him by his industry and by his enthusiasm, which made it practically inevitable that he would get that appointment. To start with, he worked under various managers of the business side of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, among them being the gentleman who afterwards took over one department only—I mean Mr. Wootton—and it was not until 1871 that Mr. Walker finally became Publisher of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST. He has been associated with practically all that has happened in connection with the *C. & D.*, with the exception of its very earliest years, and I think that during that time he has either initiated or carried through, or largely suggested, most of the improvements which have made it what it is. It was Mr. Walker who first thought of the idea of making the *Diary* part of any series of advertisements running in the papers; that was an extremely clever idea. He also suggested that THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST should have the now familiar cover, which Mr. Wootton at that time very strongly objected to, because he thought, as I daresay many of you would have thought also in those days, that it was extremely undignified to have a paper of any colour but white, no doubt taking his idea from "The Engineer," "The Lancet," and other technical papers of that time. Mr. Walker, on the other hand, stuck out for the pink cover, not, however, because he had any particular fancy for pink, but because, I think, he saw that he would have something that he could worry the advertisers for; in other words, that he might get more special positions. Later on he also was the first to suggest the idea of having special numbers with illuminated covers in colours and gold, and Mr. Walker still continues to have as much gold as the artists will allow him to have. Although chiefly associated with the *C. & D.*, Mr. Walker has from time to time, and at one time for a considerable number of years, had a good deal to say in the control of "The Ironmonger," and he has always watched its career, even when he has not taken an active part in it, with great interest. When I made my first business trip in the Provinces in 1891 Mr. Walker chaperoned me round. On one occasion he took a trip to the United States. That was in the middle of the 'eighties, and I have always understood that he surprised even the go-ahead inhabitants of that country with his energy, and he undoubtedly justified his visit. In short, Mr. Walker is, I suppose, the most experienced publisher of any technical or trade or commercial journal in London

at this time, and I am sure if there was a society composed of these gentlemen—and I don't know why there should not be one, because there is a society for almost everything in this world—Mr. Walker would be elected the first and perhaps permanent president of it. Well, ladies and gentlemen, that is more or less an account of Mr. Walker as a business man, and if that was all Mr. Walker is he might be a most uninteresting and unlovable man just the same, but I think you will agree with me that he is neither of these things. He is a man who is extremely human, a man who is very highly esteemed—the word "esteem" is not really sufficient; he is really a man that people who come in contact with him have a great affection for, and I should like to say that the junior members of the firm of Morgan Brothers certainly have an affection for Mr. Walker. Mr. Walker is sometimes emphatic in his criticism, yet the man, and sometimes the lady, who have thought Mr. Walker too emphatic are just those who go to him a day or two after and ask him his advice on the most intimate questions of their life. I have also always noticed that Mr. Walker is the head and fountain for information in regard to anything of a romantic nature in our office—I suppose because you instinctively confide in him. Now, these characteristics of Mr. Walker go to prove that he may be described as a good sort of man. I thank him on behalf of myself and Mr. Penry Morgan for the great kindness he showed us when we first came to the office, and for the kindness he has shown us ever since. I am sure you will all unite with me in wishing Mr. Walker, and I will include, with his permission, Mrs. Walker, many years of health and happiness.

The toast was honoured heartily, and Mr. MacEwan then presented the staff's gift, remarking that what Mr. Morgan had said of him on behalf of the firm could also be said in principle and sentiment by every one of Mr. Walker's fellow-workers, as no one is more highly esteemed at 42 Cannon Street than he. Mr. Walker gave an excellent speech of acknowledgment, reminiscent of the events which chiefly interest "42" folks, and speaking with a vim that indicates great working reserve.

The next toast, "The Firm," was given by Mr. Meyjes, and acknowledged by Mr. Penry Morgan, who, in the course of his reply, said:

"I naturally should have liked that this toast should have been responded to by one of the senior partners, but for reasons which have been explained that is impossible, though I am sure they are here in spirit. Had they been able to attend this evening, I think they might have been able to add one or two items to the list of entertainment, because I think the three of them combined with Mr. Walker might have sung the well-known song of Albert Chevalier in slightly altered form, 'We have been together now for fifty years, and it don't seem a day too long.'"

"The Ladies" was given by Mr. Glass, and the reply by Mr. Chalmers. In the course of the evening an excellent musical programme was contributed by Mlle. Suzanne Ollier, Mr. Clay Thomas, Mr. Fred Curtis, and Miss Edith Adamson, O.S.M., and a fairy tale about Mr. Walker and his associates and associations admirably rendered by the author, Mr. Meyjes, summed up the situation.

And so to work again, *ut antea*.



BIRTHS.

HUNTER.—At 51 Mid Street, Fraserburgh, on January 29, the wife of William W. Hunter, chemist, of a daughter.

NEEDHAM.—On January 6, the wife of J. H. Needham, chemist and druggist, Port Elizabeth, of a daughter.

TATE.—At Castleisland, co. Kerry, on February 2, the wife of T. Dawson Tate, Ph.C., of a son.

Select Committee on Patent Medicines.

Appointed by the House of Commons to inquire into the sale of patent and proprietary medicines and medical preparations and appliances, and advertisements relating thereto.

Record of Evidence given on February 6.

The Select Committee met in Committee Room No. 16 at the House of Commons on February 6. Sir Hy. Norman presided, and other members of the Committee present were Mr. Cawley, Dr. Chapple, Sir H. Dalziel, Mr. Glyn-Jones, Mr. O'Grady, Mr. Newton, Mr. Bathurst, and Mr. Lynch.

FUTURE PROCEEDINGS.

At the outset the Chairman made the following announcement regarding the future course of the inquiry:

This will be the last meeting of this Committee this Session, and as the Committee therefore technically ceases to exist, we are unable at present to fix the date of any future meeting. The Committee will present a special report to the House of Commons saying that we have considered the matters referred to us, but we have not yet been able to present a final report, and we therefore recommend that a Committee on the same subject be appointed in the next Session of Parliament.

WOODWARD'S GRIPE-WATER.

The first witness was Mr. William Woodward, managing director of Woodward's, Ltd., Chaucer Street, Nottingham, who manufacture "Woodward's Gripe-water." This remedy has been on the market since 1850. It is made from a secret formula, and bears Revenue stamps. He produced labels and copies of the literature issued and typical advertisements as they appear in the Press. The remedy, he said, is founded upon the prescription of a family physician, and it was, in course of time, slightly modified as to the proportion of ingredients, in accordance with medical experience, but it has been constant in composition for the last twenty-five years. The firm have very friendly relations with medical practitioners, and in Nottingham, where the medicine was first known, it was supplied to several of the prominent medical men, partly for use in their own nurseries and partly for their patients. It was also supplied in bulk to certain medical men, who habitually advised its use in the ordinary complaints due to disordered digestion in young children. The proprietors have received numerous letters from medical men. Copies of some of them without the names were handed to the Chairman. The names were also given in confidence to the Chairman of the Committee. A few testimonials are published, and these are in every case unsolicited. The alleged formula in "Secret Remedies" is inaccurate, seriously incomplete, and thoroughly misleading. The omitted ingredient is of real medicinal value and present in operative quantities, and is an essentially valuable therapeutic element of the mixture.

An interruption by the Chairman took place here as to the witness's statement regarding analysts, and Mr. Woodward pointed out that the analyst of the British Medical Association has made mistakes both of omission and commission. The Chairman said Mr. Umney's evidence had been placed before the Government analyst, and a reply had been received that "We see no reason whatever for modifying the terms of our report." Witness persisted that both analysts are wrong in their analysis. In regard to publication of the formula, witness said he would strongly object to that on account of the serious injury that would be caused to his proprietary rights.

Mr. Lawson: The effect would be the production and sale of inferior substitutes?

Witness: Yes; the medicine would be made up from our formula, but it would not be prepared with the care and skill which we display.

Mr. Lawson: And it would be sold by virtue of your advertising expenditure?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Woodward then stated that if the object of legislation was to reduce the sale of medicines not

specifically prescribed for the use of a patient, publication of formula would tend to defeat the object in view, since by cheapening the article, and giving added pecuniary motive to the retailer, the sales would probably be largely increased, though the benefit of the skill and enterprise of the present proprietors would be annexed by others.

In answer to the Chairman, witness handed in labels and circulars as altered at the suggestion of the Australian authorities. The changes were not material in regard to the circular, and had been adopted entirely. The formula is not required to be disclosed by the Canadian, Australian, or United States laws. Witness further stated that the constancy of the composition of Woodward's gripe-water is greater than that of ordinary dispensed medicine, quoting an article in the "Lancet" of 1906.

In reply to the Chairman, he said that though Mr. Umney had never seen his medicine made, Mr. Umney's staff had, and Mr. Umney had himself made it from their formula. With regard to the difference on the labels in this country and in Australia, the fact that they merely said on the latter labels that it was "for the relief of the simple and familiar ailments of young children, especially during the period of teething," was due to the Commonwealth law.

The Chairman: Supposing the Government analysis to be accurate, which of the ingredients is a cure for convulsions, or is it the mysterious unmentioned ingredient?—All that has been settled by our medical advisers. It has taken about forty years or more, and the statements we make are being verified constantly.

You cannot answer my question in a more direct way? You cannot indicate which of these ingredients is a fit treatment for convulsions?—I should say the mixture of the lot. Together they make a mixture which is satisfactory. No medical man can say why a certain thing does certain things, but he knows that it does.

Witness added that the ingredients are known to many medical men, and the information is never refused when asked for by qualified medical men.

Sir H. Dalziel: Do you find customers giving second orders?—We find that people had it fifty years ago, and their grandchildren are having it now.

Mr. Lawson: Testamentary instruction. (Laughter.)

Sir H. Dalziel: Your chief objection to the publication of the formula on the label is that it would interfere with your goodwill, and would prevent uniformity?

The witness replied that they have proprietary rights, just as the manufacturers of Worcester sauce or Huntley & Palmer's biscuits, and they have exactly the same claim for the protection of the law as many other people. He did not feel bound to make a case to help people who wished to take his rights away.

Mr. Glyn-Jones: Do you describe your medicine as a notable specific in spasmodic cholera in infancy?—Yes.

Do you think the benefit from your medicine is due to the fact that it does away with digestive troubles?

Witness: If you could really have babies fed on thoroughly satisfactory principles and kept properly clean, and if there were no risks of chill which might affect the liver or digestion, I do not think we should be required by the community at all. (Laughter.)

Continuing, witness observed that in the majority of cases convulsions are due to digestive trouble, and many people say that nothing would relieve convulsions but this medicine.

Mr. Glyn-Jones: A number of medicines for children have been criticised on the ground that they contain opiates. There is nothing at all in your medicine of that kind?

Witness: Nothing.

In answer to another question, witness made the interesting statement that the medicine was originally compounded for his use when a baby.

Mr. O'Grady, after a brief interrogation of the witness, wound up with the question: What is the reason for the

secrecy I have noticed in the case of all witnesses in regard to doctors' testimonials?

Witness replied that supposing inquiry was being made into the merits of a medicine like that of his firm, and a medical man was prepared to make a statement in support of it, the medical tribunal would say something to this effect: "You are one of our medical brethren, and we should like to warn you that if anything you are going to say is to the advantage of the article, you are going to take a very serious step. On the other hand, if you are going to say anything against it, we should welcome you as a loyal brother."

The Chairman here interposed to ask witness if he was making this statement from his own knowledge.

Witness explained that, of course, he was speaking metaphorically. But, he added, what he had said was not, in his judgment, an exaggeration of the attitude the medical profession, in its organised capacity, took up as regarded this kind of evidence, if it was to be published.

Mr. O'Grady: I had that opinion myself very strongly, and I really wanted to find out whether my suspicions were justified.

The Chairman: Well, I think you have brought it out very effectively. (Laughter.)

Mr. Newton's cross-examination was unusually brief. He elicited from the witness that the firm did not solicit testimonials from users of the medicine; they got far more than they could possibly use.

The hon. member remarked that he had glanced through the testimonials which Mr. Woodward had handed in, and it was only fair to say that they are a very valuable body of evidence as to the merits of the medicine.

Answering Mr. Lawson, witness said that the proportion which expenditure on advertising bore to the general expenses of the business was comparatively small. He thought the firm spent considerably less in this way than most proprietors of patent medicines.

Mr. Lawson: Then what do you trust to for extending or maintaining your business?—Witness: I think partly to medical recommendation and partly to family tradition.

Yours is an entirely hereditary sale?—Almost entirely.

Mr. Cawley's cross-examination was confined solely to the question of the publication of formulae. Witness told the hon. member that if the names of the ingredients were published on the label, the trade-mark would not, in his opinion, be a sufficient protection against the manufacture of substitutes.

Mr. Cawley also asked witness to admit that the sale of various Worcester sauces had not injured the sale of Lea & Perrin's Worcester sauce. Witness could not answer, but said that doubtless the original sauce was the best. Mr. Cawley said he could not distinguish any difference.

In reply to Dr. Chapple, he said they did not solicit testimonials from doctors, and did not think they had done so even twenty-six years ago.

Mr. O'Grady: You are not against legislation of a reasonable character dealing with this subject?—It is not so much a matter for legislation as for carrying out the present regulations. They should be enforced by a body not composed of medical men, but one which would include representatives of the public and command confidence. Exaggeration with regard to patent medicines, like exaggeration in politics, might well be suppressed. (Laughter.)

Dr. Chapple: Exaggeration in politics does no injury. (Laughter.) Are you aware that the only and exclusive attitude of the medical profession is designed to prevent the sick from being imposed upon? (Much laughter.)—I do not agree with that. (Laughter.)

In reply to further inquiries by Mr. Bathurst whether he would consider it necessary in all cases of childish ailments to call in a doctor, the witness stated that in the case of his own children he had trusted the mother and the nurse, and he thought they knew as much as a practitioner.

The Chairman: And the father, too. (Laughter.)

Mr. Bathurst asked whether where opium alkaloids or poisons are included in a medicine, it should not be stated on the label in the interests of the general public.

The witness replied that a list of articles of that kind to be mentioned on the label should be prepared by competent authorities. He thought alcohol might be stated if it exceeded 5 per cent. One of the results of the American law had been that if something to impress the

public were not put upon the label there would be no sale for the article, for the public would think there was nothing in it.

In reply to the Chairman, he stated that there was alcohol in his medicine, because one of the constituents could not be put in without it. They had tried in various ways, but had not yet been successful.

In reply to an inquiry by the Chairman whether seventy-two bottles of the medicine have not been offered to a doctor for permission to use a testimonial, he said there was a great difference between applying for a testimonial and applying for permission to use it. He did not agree that seventy-two bottles in one year were more than the doctor could use for his own family—there might be two lots of twins. (Laughter.)

AFTER LUNCHEON.

Mr. John Arthur South was the witness. He stated, in reply to the Chairman, that he was, and had been for twenty years, manager for Steedman & Co., 372 Walworth Road, S.E. It was a private company, and the principal business consisted in the manufacture and sale of Steedman's Soothing-powders. They also owned and sold Steedman's Rhubarb and Ginger Pills, Steedman's Hooping-cough Powders, and Falconer's Worm-powders. The sale of these remedies (other than the soothing-powders) was small, and none were advertised in the public Press. The soothing-powders have been on the market since 1820, and had been sold continuously since.

Witness produced a bundle of little red books, copies of which, he said, were freely distributed. The medicines of the firm are compounded by a pharmaceutical chemist. He could not tell the Committee anything concerning the origin of the prescription for the soothing powders, because it went so far back—nearly one hundred years.

Witness explained that the formula for the medicine was known only to the firm and to Dr. Hake, who was to give evidence. Continuing, Mr. South said that some comment had been made on a form of advertisement begun in 1839 by reference to the engraving of the firm's name on the Government duty stamps. The object in putting the name on the stamps was, without doubt, to act as a protection against imitation and substitution. He had never regarded it in any other light, but the statement was altered three years ago.

Then witness made a brief reference to the practice of "breaking bulk," which, he said, had been in force for a great many years. The provision was entirely in the interests of the poor. His firm did not ask for testimonials, but notwithstanding that fact they received a number of entirely unsolicited testimonials to the efficacy of their remedies.

Witness passed on to deal specially with the soothing-powders. The labels and advertisements used for the powders sent to Canada, the United States of America, New Zealand, and South Africa, etc., were essentially the same as those used in this country. The Australian Customs authorities now required the firm to make the following statement on the labels: "The contents of this package include 27 per cent. of calomel."

"I do not believe that this regulation serves any useful purpose," he proceeded, "but as calomel is an ingredient which can be identified with certainty by analysis, we have, although not without reluctance, conformed to the regulations."

The Chairman: Unless you had done so you could not have sold your powders in Australia.

Witness: That is why we conformed to it. (Laughter.) Witness stated that in all the experience of his company there was no knowledge of any death or injury having taken place which was found to be attributable to the taking of any of their preparations, and no person had ever brought an action for untrue representations made by the company, or claimed damages on the ground that any of the representations made by the company were untrue. The alleged formula of Steedman's powders published in "Secret Remedies" was inaccurate and incomplete. The effect of a Steedman's soothing-powder would be quite different from the effect of a powder made up in accordance with the formula given in "Secret Remedies." His

company would object most strongly to the publication of their formula.

The Chairman asked witness what he had to say regarding the difference between Steedman's and Stedman's powders.

Witness said it would be a rather awkward thing for him to say anything on the subject. "These powders," he added, "are nearly one hundred years old; the originator of Steedman's powders is still alive."

Answering further questions, he said Steedman's powders had always been manufactured from the same formula until ten years ago, when a small quantity of opium they had contained was taken out. This was owing to a communication from the Pharmaceutical Society with regard to the labelling of anything that contained a scheduled poison with the word "poison." With regard to the use of the word "Soothing," he regarded it as rather unfortunate. Dr. Chapple asked why they should be so labelled when there was nothing in the powder to give it the title of "soothing." To this Mr. South rather effectively quoted from an article by a medical man in a recent issue of the "British Medical Journal" to the effect that "calomel has induced sleep."

Mr. Glyn-Jones interrogated witness on the sale of single powders by retailers, which he said was very large. Probably the bulk of business done was by chemists selling single powders from bulk-stamped packets. There is now no "Steedman" in the firm, but the originator was John Steedman, chemist, and the acting partner of the present company is a registered chemist. Directing witness's attention to the Government stamp bearing the words "Prepared by John Steedman, Chemist," Mr. Glyn-Jones asked whether witness thought there would be any objection to the name of the actual chemist now connected with the firm appearing on the label.

The Chairman wanted to know if Mr. South was aware of the law on that point, and witness said they had never thought about the matter, as the labels had been so printed since 1839.—The Chairman suggested that it might be worth while for the company to look into the matter.

Witness was next closely questioned with regard to the booklet "Hints to Mothers" he had handed in. It was written—or at least passed—by an M.D. of the University of London, but he refused to give the name without the permission of the doctor.—The Chairman said the Committee regarded the issuing of such a book (recommending a proprietary medicine) by a man with presumably a high medical degree as a serious matter, and said they would like to have the opportunity of examining the medical man in question.—Mr. South promised to communicate with the medical man and see if he would consent to give evidence.

The next witness was Edward Wilson Hake, Ph.D. (Giessen), F.I.C., F.C.S., Lecturer on Chemistry and Toxicology at Westminster Hospital Medical School, who stated, in answer to the Chairman, that he was there to correct an erroneous statement in "Secret Remedies" with regard to the composition of Steedman's Soothing-powders. In his opinion that analysis was inaccurate; it was incomplete, and it gave an entirely erroneous impression of the composition of the powders. One of the ingredients has been entirely overlooked, although it is discoverable by chemical analysis. There is no alkaloid present, and opium is not present in any form. The statement with regard to the ash is of no value. He had analysed twenty-four powders obtained from the Army and Navy Stores in 1904, and his opinion was based on what he found then. It was not only surprising but extremely regrettable that an analyst of high standing should issue such an analysis. The discovery of the missed ingredient should not have been difficult if a little more trouble had been taken or a brother analyst consulted. He was not a medical man, so could only speak of the therapeutical effect from general knowledge, so that a good deal of the cross-examination, particularly on the medical side of the question, fell flat. The ingredient missed by Mr. Harrison is quite active and as important as calomel. The powders do not form a "complex mixture," nor does the missing ingredient come under Mr. Harrison's category of "vegetable drugs" difficult of examination.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Council-meeting.

THE monthly meeting of the Council was held at 16 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C., on February 5. The President referred to the death of Mr. Yewdall, of Leeds; Mr. Hodgson, of the College of Preceptors; and Lord Ilkeston. The Registrar's report for 1912 showed that on December 31 the membership stood at 7,542, and that on the registers there are 16,330 names. There is a slight decrease in the register of superintendents of corporate bodies. The Treasurer reported that subscriptions to the Society and to the Benevolent Fund are coming in slowly, which he attributes to the fact that chemists are so busy with Insurance dispensing. Legacies were announced of 100*l.* and 25*l.* for the Benevolent Fund, the committee of which recommended grants of 141*l.* to eleven applicants for assistance. Mr. Richard Widdowson, Nottingham, was elected to receive the income of the Waterall Fund.

THE councillors present were Mr. C. B. Allen (President), Mr. E. White (Vice-President), Mr. W. H. Gibson (Treasurer), and Messrs. F. E. Bilson, A. S. Campkin, W. L. Currie, F. J. Gibson, R. L. Gifford, D. Gilmour, A. Hagon, J. F. Harrington, J. Harrison, E. T. Neathercoat, G. T. W. Newsholme, F. A. Rogers, P. F. Rowsell, F. P. Sargeant, C. Symes, T. A. White, and J. R. Young.

DEATHS.

After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read, the PRESIDENT referred to the death of Mr. Edwin Yewdall, of Leeds, a good practical pharmacist who continued in harness up to the time of his death. He also mentioned that Mr. Hodgson, Secretary of the College of Preceptors, has died and has been succeeded by Mr. Chalmers, who formerly filled the position of assistant secretary. Mr. Hodgson had always been ready to assist the Society in education matters. Mention was also made of the death of Lord Ilkeston, who, as Sir Walter Foster in the House of Commons, helped the Society a good deal. He backed two or three of the Bills in which the Society was interested.

MR. SARGEANT paid a tribute to the memory of Mr. Yewdall, who was, he said, a thorough pharmacist with an almost child-like faith in the scientific and professional possibilities of pharmacy, although somewhat crushed of recent years under the juggernaut of modern commercialism. He had an almost fanatical loyalty to the Society, of which he became a divisional secretary over fifty years ago.

ELECTIONS AND RESTORATIONS.

There were next elected 125 members and 46 student associates. Forty-eight persons were restored to their former positions in the Society, and nine names were replaced on the Register of Chemists and Druggists.

RETIRING COUNCILLORS.

The SECRETARY reported that the following members of the Council would retire in May: W. L. Currie, W. H. Gibson, R. L. Gifford, A. Hagon, G. T. W. Newsholme, C. Symes, and Edmund White.

THE REGISTRAR'S REPORT.

The REGISTRAR then submitted his report for the year 1912, of which the following abstract embodies the main features:

The subscribers to the Society are 661 life compounders, compared with 636 in 1911; 6,861 annual members, against 6,735; and 436 student associates, against 462. The number of persons registered as apprentices or students was 447 [505 in 1911]; 395 persons passed the Minor, against 436 in 1911; while the successful Major candidates numbered 35. The Register of Pharmaceutical Chemists contains 2,021

names [2,030 in 1911], and that of chemists and druggists 14,509 [14,335 in 1911]. The Register of Superintendents of Bodies Corporate (Section 3, 1908 Act) contains 459 names [471 the previous year]. The section of the report on the administration of the Pharmacy Acts showed that there were investigated 1,362 cases of alleged infringement of the Act, and that in 238 cases proceedings were instituted. The summary as to the persons prosecuted is as follows:

Unqualified drug-store proprietors	137
Unqualified assistants in drug-stores	8
Chemists	27
Unqualified managers and assistants to chemists	29
Widows of chemists	2
Unqualified managers to the executors of chemists	2
Limited companies trading as chemists and druggists	18
Unqualified directors, managers, and assistants to limited companies	12
Chinese storekeepers	2
Assistants to seedsmen	1

A note appended to the report states that in eight other cases of alleged infringement the poison asked for was omitted from the article purchased, but three of these persons were proceeded against under the Merchandise Marks Act.

The VICE-PRESIDENT remarked that the number of life compounders is increasing, which shows the necessity of the arrangements that were made for dealing on a separate basis with life compounders' fees.

Mr. HAGON said 281 members had dropped out.

The PRESIDENT: We hope within the next year or two to increase considerably the number of members.

FINANCE.

The Treasurer then presented the report of the Finance Committee. The receipts of the General Fund amounted to 1,548*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.*, made up as follows: Penalties and costs, 141*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*; subscriptions, 810*l.* 12*s.*; "Journal" and publications, 374*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*; registration-fees, 102*l.* 18*s.*; school-fees, 10*l.* 10*s.*; restoration-fees, 10*l.* 10*s.*; rent (15 Bloomsbury Square), 54*l.* 2*s.* 11*d.*; ground-rents, 44*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.*; making a balance of 1,136*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.*, after deducting the payments authorised by the Council in January. The following amounts were recommended for payment: "Journal" and publications, 1,242*l.* 2*s.* 7*d.*; stationery, etc., 34*l.* 15*s.* 1*d.*; current expenses, 350*l.*; salaries, etc., 349*l.* 7*s.*; law charges, 129*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*; house, 229*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*; school and examinations, 304*l.* 18*s.*—a total of 2,640*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.* The balance on the Benevolent Fund was shown as 498*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*, and a printing bill of 7*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* was recommended for payment. On the Donation account was shown a balance of 597*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*, and on the Orphan Fund 89*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*

Commenting on the report, the TREASURER said that the subscriptions received during the past month were 53*s.* 6*d.* less than in January last year. This he suggested is due to the fact that the members are so much occupied by Insurance matters. The payments are 569*l.* less, the balance 921*l.* in excess of last year, whilst there is 95*l.* less to pay. The subscriptions to the Benevolent Fund are also slow in coming in, 95*l.* less having been received this year against last January. The balance is 100*l.* less, but that day information had been received that the late John Bellamy, of Harborne, has left the fund a legacy of 100*l.* There had also been received 25*s.* from the Chemists' Assistants' Association, the proceeds of a smoking-concert, and 5*s.* from Mr. F. W. Dennis, of Louth, collected at a weighing-machine. The Donation account has also benefited by a legacy of 25*l.* under the will of the late J. H. Chaplin, of Wakefield. The Treasurer further explained that the money in hand is not to be invested as had been foreshadowed last month, but is to be put on deposit. The fund is not quite out of debt, as money was borrowed from the general account to complete payment for the property acquired at Shortlands and Paddington Green.

The report was adopted.

BENEVOLENCE.

The report of the Benevolent Fund Committee was taken *in camera*, after which

Mr. F. J. GIBSON, the Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that in eleven cases grants were

recommended to be made amounting to 141*l.* Two cases were deferred, and in another case the applicant has died. Reference was also made to the election of an orphan to the London Orphan Asylum, and another girl—M. J. Sell—has been nominated for election to the Infant Orphan Asylum at Wanstead. The committee also recommended that Mr. R. Widdowson, of Nottingham, be elected Waterall annuitant. Another applicant for this annuity received a grant from the Benevolent Fund.

Mr. GILMOUR said it is a pity the subscribers to the fund have not the opportunity of reading the grateful letters received from persons who have benefited by the fund. These letters show the great good done by the fund.

The PRESIDENT mentioned that the Nottingham Pharmacists' Association had assisted the committee in selecting the Waterall annuitant.

The report was adopted.

L., M., S., AND H. COMMITTEE.

The report of the Library, Museum, School and House Committee was next presented by the Vice-President. Among the matters dealt with in the report was a recommendation that the Curator's special report in October be replaced by a printed monthly report to the committee. An account amounting to 4*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* for house repairs was approved. The Secretary of the International Congress of Pharmacy asked for the loan of photographs of the Society's school for exhibition at the Congress at The Hague in September next. The committee also approved of a recommendation of the Local Associations Committee that another typist be added to the general staff, and that she be placed at the disposal of Mr. Woolcock, the Organising Secretary.

Mr. CURRIE questioned whether one committee had the power to remit a recommendation to another committee.

Mr. HARRISON thought it was only a question of asking advice from another committee.

Mr. SARGEANT, Mr. ROWSELL, and Mr. GILMOUR also spoke, the last-named asking why Mr. Woolcock should advertise for more work if he is already fully occupied.

The PRESIDENT: That is entirely a different matter.

The report was adopted

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS COMMITTEE.

Mr. NEATHERCOAT next presented a long report of this committee, which referred to meetings held in December of last year, and those matters that happened before January 8. Mr. Neathercoat gave a *résumé* of the report and mentioned that the meetings held throughout the country are serving a useful purpose in explaining difficulties which have arisen under the National Insurance Act.

Mr. SARGEANT protested against the way the date of the meeting of this committee is altered at short notice.

Mr. GIFFORD, after drawing attention to the fact that the report is a month old, said that the importance of the communications to local associations by Mr. Woolcock is not always realised. The whole future hangs to a great extent upon the action of the committee during the next two months.

The PRESIDENT explained that the urgency of the work of other committees, which had precedence over the Local Associations Committee, had compelled him to alter the date at short notice. The work of the committees has so increased that two days are taken up now, whereas formerly one day only was required. He would make an endeavour to fix a definite time when these matters were arranged in May.

Mr. YOUNG referred to the neglect to attend to communications from Mr. Woolcock, and said he hoped Mr. Gifford's words would have some effect.

The report was adopted.

REPORT OF EXAMINATIONS.

The examiners reported that in London 170 candidates were examined for the Minor, and that 86 passed. In Edinburgh, of 67 candidates 40 passed.

Dr. SYMES remarked on the improvement in the percentage of passes. It was, he said, a record for some years.

The PRESIDENT said the high standard of knowledge of the candidates was particularly noticeable at the last examination.

PRIZES EXAMINERS.

Mr. E. H. Farr, Mr. H. Finnemore, and Mr. Prosper Marsden were appointed examiners for the Pereira medal and Council prizes examinations in April.

SCHEDULING DIETHYL-BARBITURIC ACID.

The Council went into Committee to consider the attitude of the Privy Council in regard to the resolution of March last proposing the addition of diethyl-barbituric acid to the list of poisons. On resuming, the following resolution was moved by the Vice-President, who stated that it was to be regretted that the Lords of the Council could not see their way to approve the March resolution, and as the matter was urgent in the public interest it seemed desirable to divest the resolution of points of controversy and to declare that the dangerous substance diethyl-barbituric acid, under whatever name it might be sold, shall be added to the Schedule of Poisons. The motion was seconded by Mr. Neathercoat and carried unanimously—

That by virtue and in exercise of the powers vested in the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain by Section 2 of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, as modified by Section 1 of the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1908, the said Council does hereby resolve and declare as follows:

That diethyl-barbituric acid ought to be deemed a poison within the meaning of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, as amended by the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1908, and ought to be deemed a poison in the second part of the "Schedule of Poisons" to that Act.

This concluded the public business.

DEATHS.

CROSDALE.—At 8 Fern Street, Coppice, Oldham, on February 3, Mr. Robert M. Crosdale, chemist and druggist, aged forty-three. Mr. Crosdale was in business at 340 Manchester Street, Oldham.

HATCH.—Recently, Mr. James Oliver Hatch, Ph.C., Bay Cottage, Heysham, aged fifty-nine. Deceased was the second son of Alderman Hatch, served his apprenticeship as a chemist with Messrs. Whimpray & Cardwell, Lancaster, and was afterwards in business for himself in Manchester. On his retirement he went to live at Heysham.

ILKESTON.—At 30 Grosvenor Road, London, S.W., on January 30, Balthazar Walter, First Baron Ilkeston, aged seventy-two. As Sir Walter Foster, and latterly the only medical man in the House of Lords, Lord Ilkeston was at one time intimately associated with medical and pharmaceutical affairs in Great Britain—he on more than one occasion backed a Pharmacy Bill. He was born at Cambridge, and studied medicine at Trinity College, Dublin, becoming a Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons and of the King's and Queen's College of Physicians, Ireland, in 1860. Immediately after he went to Birmingham as one of the medical staff of Queen's College and assistant physician to Queen's Hospital. Four years later he became Professor of Anatomy at Sydenham College, Birmingham, and from that time he was a recognised leader in medical science and practice. He became M.D. of the University of Erlangen in 1864, a member of the Royal College of Physicians, London, in the following year, and in 1873 a Fellow thereof. In 1886 he was elected a member of the General Medical Council as a direct representative, and held the position until January 1897, when he retired. He was also intimately associated for many years with the British Medical Association. In the practice of medicine he specialised in respect to the treatment of diseases of the heart and lungs, as well as diabetes and dyspepsia. In 1885 he was elected M.P. for Chester in the Liberal interest, but was defeated in the following year, and in 1887 was elected for the Ilkeston Division of Derbyshire, retaining the seat until 1910, when he was elevated to the House of Lords. From 1892 to 1895 he was Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board, and his services in that capacity are generally admitted to have been of exceptionally high service to the country, especially in

combating epidemic disease. He was knighted in 1886 and was sworn of the Privy Council in 1906—twenty years later—and on his elevation to the peerage took the title from the district which he had so long represented in Parliament. He is succeeded by his only surviving son, the Hon. B. S. S. Foster, stipendiary magistrate of Birmingham.

LAYBOURNE.—On January 27, Sarah, widow of Mr. Christopher Laybourne, chemist and druggist, of Middle Street, Driffield, aged eighty-six.

NORDEN.—On February 1, at Longfield, Loughton, Essex, Mr. Edwin Charles Norden, of Messrs. Henry Kiver & Co., Colonial brokers, 5 Fen Court, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C., aged fifty years.

PETRIDES.—On January 27, suddenly, at his office, Ethelburga House, 91-3 Bishopsgate, London, E.C., Mr. Demetrius N. Petrides, aged seventy-three years. Mr. Petrides, who was a well-known City man, was the founder of the firm of Messrs. D. N. Petrides & Co., and had been established at the above address as a sponge merchant for over fifty years. He was senior of the Bristol sponge trade, and it was chiefly through his efforts that London acquired the largest share of the trade in Mediterranean sponges. Early in his career, Paris and Antwerp were the leading markets for Mediterranean sponges, but the Franco-German war gave Mr. Petrides his opportunity, and his assiduous efforts resulted in London becoming the chief *entrepôt*. The formation of a Sponge-trade Association in 1899 was primarily due to Mr. Petrides, and very definite rules were drawn up by the associated firms with the idea of putting the business on a better and secure basis. Mr. Petrides was a native of Symi, in the Ægean Archipelago; he was naturalised as a British subject in 1869, but the fervour of his Greek patriotism remained undiminished, and he always took an active interest in the welfare of his compatriots. When in 1910 the Young Turks assumed power and threatened to withdraw from the inhabitants of the Greek Islands the few constitutional privileges they still enjoyed, Mr. Petrides took up their case, and induced the British Foreign Office to intervene, with the result that the threatened oppressions were averted. His services were recognised by the King of the Hellenes, who, in 1901, bestowed upon him the knighthood of the Order of the Silver Cross.

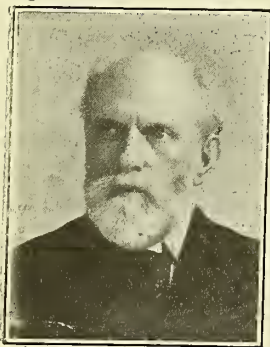
SIMONS.—At Chippenham, Wilts, on January 28, Mr. William Simons, chemist and druggist, 16 High Street, Chippenham. Mr. Simons was apprenticed to Mr. G. T. W. Newsholme, at Sheffield, and was assistant dispenser at the Sheffield Royal Infirmary. He went from there to the Exeter Infirmary. About two years ago he purchased the business of Mr. A. B. Turpin, chemist and druggist, in High Street, Chippenham. His death took place upon a relapse following an operation the previous week. Mr. Simons leaves a widow, but no children. The funeral, on February 1, was attended by Mr. E. Neale, pharmacist, Mayor of Chippenham, and many other Masonic brethren and friends.

TEITGE.—At Johannesburg, on January 7, Mr. H. W. L. Teitge, chemist and druggist, died of heart-failure while at his business. Mr. Teitge was born in South Africa, and was the proprietor of a fine pharmacy at the corner of Marshall and Von Welliegh Streets, Johannesburg. The business formerly belonged to Messrs. Smith, Rive & Co., Ltd., in whose employ Mr. Teitge was for many years, and when the firm dissolved he took over the branch which he managed. His comparatively early death is deplored by his Masonic brethren and friends.

WARING.—At 82 Beckenham Road, Beckenham, on February 3, Mr. Albert Wynne Waring, chemist and druggist, aged sixty-one. Mr. Waring, who was born in Walworth, was the son of a medical man, and obtained his first experience of pharmacy with his father. After being for some time with a London firm specialising in fitting up ships' medicine-chests, he was assistant with Mr. Anthony, Bedford, for about five years. He read for the Minor there, and afterwards, studying at Muter's School of Pharmacy, he qualified in 1873. He then became assistant at a Sloane Street pharmacy, later joining Messrs. Corbyn, Stacey & Co. as a

junior dispenser at their retail business at 7 Poultry, E.C. This was about thirty-five years ago, and Mr. Waring gradually rose to be manager. When that firm gave up retail pharmacy Mr. Waring took over the business, removing, when the lease fell in, almost immediately to 3 Bucklersbury. There he continued the business for some nineteen years until his death. The business is typical of good class pharmacy in the City. Mr. Waring also worked up a good dental practice, he having registered as a dental surgeon at the time of the passing of the Dentists' Act. Mr. Waring was a widower. Of late he had been suffering from blood-poisoning, which started from a corn. During the last two years he also suffered from diabetes. Mr. Waring's genial personality made him extremely popular in the City and throughout the drug-trade generally. Mr. Waring was a Freeman of the City of London, a Liveryman of the Painter-Stainers Company, and a member of the Galen Lodge of Freemasons. The funeral takes place at Norwood Cemetery on February 8.

YEWDALE.—At his residence, Wade Lane, Leeds, suddenly on February 1, Mr. Edwin Yewdall, Ph.C., aged seventy-seven. Mr. Yewdall was one of the oldest pharmacists in Leeds, of which he was a native. He was apprenticed to Messrs. Bell and Brooke, wholesale and retail chemists and druggists, Boar Lane, Leeds, from 1851 to 1857, and was afterwards for a short time with Messrs. Raimes & Co., Edinburgh. He bought the present business in July 1858 from Messrs. Goodall, Backhouse & Co. on their removal to the premises of Messrs. Bell & Brooke, which they purchased. He was for twenty-three years one of the directors of the Leeds Institute,



MR. E. YEWDALE.

and for twenty-two years Hon. Secretary of the Yorkshire Union of Educational Institutes, and ten years Hon. Secretary of the Leeds Chemists' Association. He passed the Major Examination in December 1868. In November last he and Mr. George Ward, as surviving founders of the Leeds Chemists' Association, gave an account of its foundation on the occasion of its jubilee. Previous to that we had some correspondence with Mr. Yewdall on the subject, in which he had asked our assistance. Such occasional interchanges of ideas in regard to pharmaceutical matters had occurred between Mr. Yewdall and successive editors of this journal for more than half a century. The last letter we had from him was on January 16, and it began: "Nothing affords me more pleasure than to help you to maintain the journal in the high position it deservedly occupies." He was a man of wide culture, a most conscientious pharmacist, and was highly respected by his confreres. He is mourned by a widow and one son. At the funeral, which took place at Woodhouse Hill on Wednesday afternoon, amongst those who attended were Dr. Pickles, Dr. Hunt, Mr. Percy Leigh (surgeon dentist), Mr. S. R. Windell (President Leeds Chemists' Association), Mr. J. H. Beacock, Messrs. W. D. Pollitt, W. Johnson, S. Jackson, J. R. Kirk, R. Lister, E. G. Purdy, A. Winterbottom, Atkinson, and Nicholls, and Mr. G. W. Worfolk (Ilkley).

PERSONALITIES.

Notes for this section sent to the Editor should be authenticated, and must not be in the nature of advertisements.

ALDERMAN J. PHILLIPS, J.P., Ph.C., 58 Wallgate, Wigan, has been re-elected Chairman of the Ribble Joint Committee.

MR. ELIAS COHEN, chemist and druggist, 17 Burrow Road, Ilfracombe, announces that he has assumed the surname of Colwin, and will in future be known as Elias Colwin.

MR. ROBERT L. WHITEHEAD, 4 Haymarket, Newcastle-on-Tyne, is now representing Mr. James F. Wilkinson, medical-label printer, Pendleton, Manchester, on the North-Eastern ground.

MR. BANKS SWINBURN, pharmacist, Penrith, was presented with his portrait at the annual dinner of the Penrith Tradesmen's Association on January 30 on his retiring from the presidency of the Association.

MR. J. H. W. IDRIS, youngest son of Mr. T. H. W. Idris, J.P., F.C.S., has passed the Law Society's examination in accounts and bookkeeping. Mr. Idris is a pupil with the firm of solicitors of which Mr. Lloyd George is a partner.

MR. J. AUSTIN THOMAS, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Cape Colony, sails by the *Saxon* from Southampton on February 8. Mr. Thomas has spent most of his time at his home in Wales, and has made occasional visits to London and renewed many old pharmaceutical acquaintances.

THE late Mr. A. E. Bertie-Smith, of Entebbe, Uganda, died from Bright's disease. In a letter to Mr. J. C. Umney, written on January 8, he said that his health was in a most parlous state. "I am going to the Seychelles for a trip," he concluded. "At present existence is quite miserable, but I am not 'condemned.'" Within a fortnight he died.

POISONING FATALITIES.

ELEVEN deaths from poisoning have been chronicled during the week.

Carbolic Acid was the poison taken with suicidal effect by George Henry Wall (48), draper's assistant, Harringay.

Chloroform.—An inquest was held at Plymouth on George Harold Drew (31), medical-research student, who was found dead in bed with the bedclothes over his head and an uncorked bottle which had contained chloroform in his hand. The medical evidence was to the effect that none of the anæsthetic had been swallowed. Deceased had apparently intended to take a whiff of the drug to induce sleep, and the bedclothes being over his head, did not wake again. "Accidental death" was the jury's verdict.

Cocaine.—At Henley, an inquest was held touching the death of Mrs. Margaret Green (46), who died, according to the medical evidence, from cocaine-poisoning following the extraction of several teeth. Mr. George Blackham, who elected to give evidence, said that though he was not a qualified dentist, he carried on business as a "practitioner of dentistry." When extracting Mrs. Green's teeth, he injected fifteen minims of a local anæsthetic into the gums, consisting of a solution of cocaine, adrenalin, and water. This was equivalent to one-third of a grain of cocaine. A doctor stated that Mrs. Green suffered from heart-disease, and it was a great mistake to give a woman in her condition so large a dose of cocaine or to extract so many of her teeth at one sitting. The jury returned a verdict of death from misadventure, adding a rider severely censuring Mr. Blackham for having administered such a large quantity of cocaine without having the necessary qualification.

Hypnotic.—The death of W. F. D. Lang, dental surgeon, Cowdenbeath, is supposed to be due to an overdose of medicine for insomnia.

Laudanum.—Gilbert Slack, collier, Nottingham, died through drinking this drug.

Lysol caused the death of the wife of George M. Parry, cooper and rate-collector, Welshpool.

Opium-poisoning was responsible for the death of Dr. Charles Pearce at Liverpool. "Suicide" was the verdict at the inquest.

Strychnine was the suicidal agent used at Liskeard by James Ough, who suffered from mental trouble.—At Lambeth, Georgina Brotherton (49), wife of a G.P.O. overseer, committed suicide by taking this poison in the form of Battle's vermin-killer.

Veronal in accidental overdose killed Harry Goddard (64), independent gentleman, Buxton.

Zinc Chloride.—Geo. Henry Wright, labourer, poisoned himself at York by taking spirit of salt killed with zinc.

HALL'S WINE.—Messrs. Stephen Smith & Co., Ltd., Bow, London, E., give particulars in our advertisement columns this week of a bonus scheme in connection with Hall's Wine and Keystone Burgundy. Reasons are given for anticipating an increased sale.

WINTER SESSION.

Reporters, and Secretaries of Associations whose meetings are not open to reporters, are requested to send their reports to the Editor not later than the Wednesday following the meeting.

(See also National Health Insurance Section.)

London (N.).—The monthly meeting of the North London Pharmacists' Association on January 30 was poorly attended owing to bad weather and the busy time due to Insurance dispensing. Dr. Ernest H. Shaw, director of clinical pathology to the Great Northern Central Hospital, gave a lecture on *The Therapeutic Use of Micro-organisms*. For the most part he confined himself to the pathogenic bodies of everyday life, dealing with the various cocci and bacilli by blackboard illustration, explaining their relativity and distribution, emphasising the cultivation of natural resistance. Non-pathogenic germs were lightly touched upon to demonstrate how the cultures for vaccines are made, collected, and mixed with definite quantities of normal saline, thereby forming the emulsion, afterwards heated to 60° F. for one hour to kill them. Cultures were passed round for inspection, among them being *Bacillus pyocyaneus*, *B. coli*, and *B. typhosus*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *S. albus*. Mr. J. Noble was in the chair, and a vote of thanks was given to the lecturer on the proposal of Mr. Duncan Bowie, seconded by Mr. R. Fouracre.

Cheltenham.—The annual meeting of the Cheltenham and Gloucester Pharmacists' Association was held at the Plough Hotel, Cheltenham, on January 30. Mr. Fletcher was in the chair, and there were also present eleven members and Mr. W. H. Hill, Hon. Secretary. The following new members were elected: Messrs. Norman Smith (Coleford), A. W. Turner (Lydney), G. Oram Warner (Berkeley), Hawley (Winchcombe), and Llewellyn (Cheltenham). The annual report and financial statement were received. Mr. L. L. Stroud was elected President for the year, with the following as *Vice-Presidents*: Messrs. F. T. Palmer and W. H. Hill (Cheltenham), Mr. Hampton (Gloucester), and Mr. Waldron Griffiths (Cirencester). Mr. W. H. Hill



MR. W. H. HILL.

having resigned the offices of *Secretary and Treasurer* after seven years of hard work, Mr. T. T. Dolman was elected as his successor. The following *Committee* was also elected: Messrs. H. B. Clarke, C. H. James, J. McLanahan, and J. A. Thomas (Cheltenham), and Messrs. Marchant and Minchin (Gloucester). After the business of the meeting Mr. J. A. Thomas, on behalf of the Association, presented to Mr. W. H. Hill a roll-top desk, which was subscribed for by practically every member of the Association, as a token of gratitude and the esteem in which he had been held during the whole of his seven years of office as Treasurer and Secretary.

Kent (W.).—A meeting of the West Kent Pharmacists' Association was held on January 29 at the Literary Institute, Bromley. There was present a representative gathering of pharmacists from Bromley, Beckenham, Sevenoaks, St. Mary Cray, and Chislehurst. The Organisation Committee was elected as follows: Messrs. R. Davenport, G. Shillecock and J. Timmis (Bromley), Mr. J. Anderson (Beckenham), Mr. J. Prebble (Chislehurst), Messrs. Pain and T. Parsons (Sevenoaks), Mr. Heath (St. Mary Cray), and Mr. H. D. Kelf (Divisional Secretary). Discussion took place on the general and local working of the National Health Insurance, and several new members joined the Association.

Liverpool.—The annual meeting of the Liverpool Chemists' Association was held at the Royal Institution on January 29, the President (H. Humphreys Jones, F.C.S.) in the chair. The following *New Members* were elected: Messrs. H. H. Marsden, Alan Leigh, W. G. Roberts, G. J. Kelly, A. C. Vallance, T. Keir, S. J. Casey, S. F. Older, E. W. Fair, G. H. Aris, H. Gainford, W. Dickinson, Ernest Parry, R. Parry, A. F. Furness, and C. L. Taylor. The *Election of Council* resulted in the following six being appointed to serve for two years: Messrs. G. H. Cole, L. Hirst, H. Lomax, T. Hamnett, C. A. Maries, G. R. Tharratt. Mr. G. R. Tharratt was elected *Vice-President*

for the ensuing year. Mr. W. Wellings was elected *Treasurer*, and Mr. J. H. Robinson *Hon. Secretary*. Mr. G. V. C. Last read the *Annual Report*, and the Treasurer's report showed a balance of nearly 6l. Allusion was made to the death of a member, Mr. Naylor, and an ex-member, Mr. Percival, and also to the sudden death of Dr. Owen T. Williams, who had on several occasions lectured before the Association. The President then delivered the *Annual Address*, which dealt very ably with the progress of pharmacy from the eighth century. An interesting part of this referred to the rivalry between the apothecaries and physicians, which ended in the former being recognised as medical practitioners. The passing of the Apothecaries Act in 1815, with its threatened invasion of the rights of chemists and druggists, had the effect of uniting chemists to resist the unjust clauses in the Bill. Other threatened legislation at intervals led to the establishment in 1841 of the Pharmaceutical Society. An account was given in some detail of the meetings of chemists in 1841, and the grant later on of the charter. Then followed particulars of the Pharmacy Acts of 1852, 1868, and 1908, and, lastly, a consideration of the Medical Benefit sections of the National Insurance Act, and of what was done for chemists while it was going through Parliament. The President concluded by stating that, having regard to the immense potentialities in the growth and development of the business of a pharmacist under the Insurance Act, to his improved status, his recognition as a member of an honourable craft, and the immense responsibility imposed upon him, he felt sure that pharmacists will prove themselves worthy of the confidence reposed in them by the State, to give of their best in return. A vote of thanks was accorded to the President for his address.

FESTIVITIES.

A Ferris Dinner.

The annual dinner and prize distribution, composed of employees of Messrs. Ferris & Co., Ltd.'s combined clubs, was held at Bristol on February 1, under the presidency of Mr. C. E. Boucher. The batting prizes in connection with the Cricket Club were awarded to Messrs. H. Weekley (1) and C. Llewellyn (2). The bowling prize was gained by Mr. T. Scavious, the challenge bowl for the first eleven by Mr. H. Weekley, and that for the second eleven by Mr. A. Lane. The Horticultural Society had held six Shows during the year, and visits were paid to various gentlemen's gardens. Mr. A. E. Sage, the honorary judge, was presented with a smoker's cabinet. A presentation was also made to Mr. H. Weekley, Hon. Secretary of the Cricket Club, a position which he has held during the past eight years, in recognition of his services as Secretary. The toasts of "The Combined Clubs" and "The Firm" were honoured, Messrs. H. H. Townsend and C. E. Boucher responding for the latter. An excellent musical programme was provided.

Whist-drives.

The whist-drive of the Sheffield Chemists' Athletic Club on January 30, at the Victoria Café, Sheffield, was well attended, an enjoyable evening being spent by the members and their friends.

A WHIST-DRIVE took place in connection with the Newcastle-on-Tyne Pharmacists' Association on January 29 in Simpson's Continental Restaurant, Grainger Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Owing to so many being at their shops dispensing under the Insurance Act, the attendance was only moderate. Mr. Gibson directed affairs, and at the close presented the prizes to the following ladies and gentlemen: Mrs. Crake, Miss Milne, and Miss B. Wright; and Messrs. Eames, Gale, and Heselton.

The whist-drive and dance organised by the Blackpool staff of Messrs. Boots, Ltd., and held at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, on January 30, was so successful that the additional accommodation in the Indian Lounge had to be pressed into service. There were seventy-five tables in use. The prize-winners were: *Ladies*—(1) Mrs. Barlow, (2) Miss Pilling, (3) Mrs. Wilde; *Gentlemen*—(1) Mr. E. Bostock, (2) Mr. Tom Ashworth, (3) Mr. Snelgrove. There was an increased attendance at the dance.

The annual whist-drive of the Scarborough Association of Pharmacists took place on January 22 at the "Brooklands" Esplanade Gardens, and was a great success. The arrangements were carried out by a ladies' committee, consisting of Mrs. W. R. Eyre, Mrs. E. M. Chapman, and Mrs. G. H. Meadley, assisted by the President (Mr. W. R. Eyre), Mr. E. M. Chapman, and Mr. G. H. Meadley (Secretary). About 160 guests were present. The earlier portion of the evening was devoted to a whist-drive, and after supper

dancing commenced and was continued until after three o'clock. The prizes for the whist-drive were distributed by Mrs. W. R. Eyre and Mrs. G. H. Meadley. The duties of M.C.s were discharged by Messrs. T. W. Longden and Cowper.

THE members and friends of the South-East London Pharmacists' Association held a very enjoyable whist-drive at the Green Man Hotel, Blackheath, on January 30. The visitors, who were received by the President and Mrs. Sayers, numbered ninety—an equal number of ladies and gentlemen. Mr. W. A. Curnow acted as M.C. During the interval for refreshments songs were rendered by Mrs. Sampson. The prizes were presented by Mrs. Sayers to the following: *Ladies*—Mrs. Curnow, Mrs. Fairweather, Mrs. Fairman, and Mrs. Bailey (hidden number). *Gentlemen*—Mr. Foster, Mr. Rubbra, Mr. Islip, and Mr. Comber (hidden number).

Dinners.

THE annual dinner of the Scarborough Association of Pharmacists was held at "The Brooklands," Esplanade Gardens, on January 29. The President (Mr. W. R. Eyre) was in the chair, and there was a good attendance. After the loyal toast, Mr. E. M. Chapman proposed "The Health of the President," and Mr. Eyre replied. The toast of "The Pharmaceutical Society," coupled with the name of Mr. F. Pilkington Sargeant, was proposed by Mr. E. R. Cross. In the course of his reply Mr. Sargeant, speaking in regard to the administration of the Pharmacy Acts, mentioned the great difficulty experienced by the Council in preventing the sale of poisons by unqualified vendors, but every complaint is promptly and thoroughly investigated. He also spoke about organisation, and answered questions on Insurance dispensing. The toast of "The Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary" was proposed by Mr. W. A. Senior, and responded to by Mr. E. M. Chapman. "The Visitors" was proposed by Mr. G. Whitfield, and Mr. Beacock replied.

THE annual dinner of the Blackpool and Fylde Pharmacists' Association was held at the Palatine Hotel, Blackpool, on January 29. The President (Mr. D. J. Bailey) was in the chair, and there was a good attendance of members and visitors. After the loyal toasts had been honoured, Mr. J. Laurie proposed the toast of "The Pharmaceutical Society"; and Mr. J. Rymer Young, who responded, said that in the whole history of pharmaceutical politics they had so little to chronicle in the way of victories that the separation of prescribing and dispensing was a great achievement, and covered any tariff inconsistencies. Other toasts were "The Town and Trade of Blackpool," proposed by the Hon. Secretary (Mr. J. W. Huddart), and responded to by Mr. Wm. Bateson, A.C.A., the Borough Treasurer. "The Blackpool and Fylde Pharmacists' Association" was proposed by Mr. Harry Masters, the President replying. "The Wholesale Trade" was proposed by Mr. Geo. A. Clarke, and Mr. Burroughs (John Thompson, Ltd.) responded. Mr. Greenwood asked the company to drink to the health of "The Visitors," and Mr. Cecil Smith and Mr. E. Novelli James replied. A good musical programme contributed to the evening's enjoyment.

THE second annual dinner of the South-East Essex Pharmacists' Association was held at the Hotel Victoria, Southend-on-Sea, on January 29, when Mr. J. H. Heywood, J.P., presided over a good attendance, which included a number of ladies. After the loyal toasts, the Hon. Treasurer (Mr. S. F. Body) gave that of "The Pharmaceutical Society." Mr. Edmund White, Vice-President of the Pharmaceutical Society, replied in optimistic vein regarding the position which chemists held as regards dispensing under the Insurance Act. He reminded the members that if they did not maintain the position which they had secured, they would step back into even a worse condition than before. Mr. J. H. Matthews toasted "The South-East Essex Pharmacists' Association"; and the Chairman, in replying, said as time went on the difficulties under the National Insurance Act would be smoothed away. Before three months were over he thought everything would be settled to the satisfaction of everybody. The Hon. Secretary (Mr. E. A. Holloway), who also responded, referred to the rapid growth of the Association on its nourishment of "Good's sauce and Holloway's ointment." He acknowledged the great services of the Chairman on the County Insurance Committee. An interesting musical programme was also gone through.

Cardiff Dinner.

THE thirteenth annual dinner of the Cardiff Pharmaceutical Association was held at the Angel Hotel, Cardiff, on January 29. Mr. G. Thomson Williams, the newly elected President, presided, and he was supported by a large company, among those present being Sir Edward Evans (ex-President of the British Pharmaceutical Conference), Mr.

A. Hagon, Mr. Austin Thomas (President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Cape Province), Mr. A. Gratte (President of the Newport Pharmacists' Association), Mr. D. Arnott (President of the Pontypridd Pharmacists' Association), Mr. J. Llewellyn Morgan, Mr. Jabez A. Jones, and Mr. Leo Joseph. The President gave the toast of "The Pharmaceutical Society."

CHEMISTS AS DISPENSERS.

Sir Edward, in replying, said it was during his own career that the Pharmacy Act, 1868, was passed, and if the Pharmaceutical Society in those days had only been as strong as it is to-day more would have been accomplished. He had always maintained that it is in the interest of the community that only qualified men should dispense medicines, and that there is not that protection given to chemists by the State that there ought to be, seeing that they had to pass examinations. Therefore he thought chemists should recognise that, whatever their views may be as to State insurance, or whatever political opinions might be, they would recognise that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had, for the first time from high quarters, laid down this great principle, that in the interests of the public—not in the interests of any particular trade, but in the interests of the insured—it is essential and desirable that, while the prescribing should be done by the medical men, the dispensing should be in the hands of the qualified pharmacists. (Hear, hear.) He was glad that in Wales the pharmacists have adopted the right methods. It is not a matter at present whether there is very much remuneration. He did not think there is sufficient remuneration, but that is not altogether the question for the next two or three months. They must not jeopardise the position by in any way letting it be thought that they are not prepared to take up the dispensing; and that they are going to do that dispensing as well for the insured person as they would for any other customer that they had upon their books—(hear, hear)—thus showing to the State that this service is well rendered, not altogether in the interests of themselves, but in the interests of the insured. If it can be shown that the remuneration provided under the Act is not sufficient, or that there must be amendments of the Act—then they had a distinct promise from the Chancellor of the Exchequer that it would be taken into consideration and remedied as soon as possible. (Applause.) He (the speaker) was never more optimistic on the chances of chemists than he is to-day, if the retail pharmacists only handle the matter in the way in which they in South Wales and North Wales are doing. It is not only in the interests of the trade, but, as he had already placed it in very high quarters, it is in the interests of the insured themselves that good prescribing should be followed by good dispensing, and that could only be done by a separation of the two. (Applause.) Mr. A. Hagon also responded, stating that he felt sure that in the future there is a better and a brighter prospect for all qualified men. Mr. Leo Joseph proposed "The Visitors," and Mr. J. Llewellyn Morgan replied. Mr. Austin Thomas also responded, and gave some interesting information regarding pharmaceutical problems in South Africa. Mr. S. B. Eason proposed "Kindred Associations," which was responded to by Mr. A. Gratte, President of the Newport Association. Sir Edward Evans proposed "The Cardiff Pharmaceutical Association," which Mr. W. R. Williams and Mr. F. Lea briefly acknowledged.

A Knightly Encounter.

When Sir Joseph Beecham gave evidence before the Select Committee on Patent Medicines he mentioned that the dose of morphine in Beecham's cough pills was so small that it came within the *de minimis non curat lex* ruling in the Pharmaceutical Society v. Delve. Later the Chairman (Sir Henry Norman) remarked:

I think there must be a mistake in the *quæris* of your evidence here, because the case you quote in point as regards the percentage of morphia, the Pharmaceutical Society v. Delve, on October 31, 1893, does not touch that point at all. You must have been ill-advised on that point. That particular case was a case in which no quantity of morphine was alleged at all, and therefore the action failed, because no statement regarding its quantity had been procured by the medical officer. I think your legal advisers have misled you as regards that case.

Sir Henry reiterated this statement later in the proceedings. He really should not be so emphatic in regard to such matters. It is he, and not Sir Joseph Beecham, who is wrong. "The application of the principle of *de minimis non curat lex*" is, and always has been, the Pharmaceutical Society's view of the Delve decision.

TRADE REPORT.

The prices given in this section are those obtained by importers or manufacturers for bulk quantities or original packages. To these prices various charges have to be added, whereby values are in many instances greatly augmented before wholesale dealers receive the goods into stock, after which much expense may be incurred in garbling and the like. Qualities of chemicals, drugs, oils, and many other commodities vary greatly, and higher prices than those here quoted are charged for selected qualities of natural products even in bulk quantities. Retail buyers cannot, therefore, for these and other reasons, expect to purchase at the prices quoted here.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C., February 6.

BUSINESS in the "open" markets has not shown any improvement on the conditions lately prevailing, and as a whole the week has been uninteresting, with few changes. Cream of tartar, as the result of good demand and spot scarcity, has advanced a further 1s. Citric acid is tending firmer. Quinine is a trifle easier in second-hands. Lemon oil is also offered at rather cheaper rates from Sicily, and a few arrivals have taken place. Glucose is firmer. Copper sulphate, ammonia sulphate, and antimony are cheaper. Petroleum is firmer by $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per gal. Menthol is firm, but quiet. Opium continues stagnant, and as advices in regard to the crop continue favourable, prices should ease further. Cocoa-butter was dearer at auction. Prospects for the Norwegian cod-fishing are very fair, but it is yet too early to form any definite opinion as to prices. Among seeds, canary and coriander are higher; fenugreek is firm; and anise, cumin, and caraway are all quiet and unchanged. The principal changes have been as under:

Higher	Firmer	Easier	Lower
Aloes (Zan.) Canary-seed Cocoa-butter Coriander-seed Cream of tartar Linseed oil Sarsaparilla (grey Jam.)	Aloes (Cape) Cannabis Indica Cardamoms Citric acid Glucose Petroleum Senna (Tinn.) Shellac	Ammonia sulphate Carbolic acid Coca-leaves Copper sulphate Lemon oil Opium Orange-peel Quinine (sec. hands.)	Antimony Chillies Colocynth Quicksilver (sec. hands.)

Cablegram.

NEW YORK, February 6.—Business in drugs is good. Opium is 10c. lower at \$6.20 for druggists'. Peppermint oil is steady at \$2.80 in tins. Ipecacuanha is easier at \$1.80, and Mexican sarsaparilla is lower at 14c. Podophyllum-root (mandrake) is firm at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Balsam Canada has advanced to \$7 per gal. Cascara sagrada and hydrastis are unchanged.

London Markets.

ANISEED is in little demand, and the quotation is unchanged at 24s. 6d. to 26s. per cwt. for common to good Russian on the spot.

ANTIMONY.—Chinese regulus is lower at 29l. to 30l. per ton c.i.f. net for February-March shipment, and 3l. 10s. c.i.f. for crude for January-February shipment.

BALSAM TOLU is firm, with a limited quantity available at 3s. 6d. net on spot. Five cases were held in auction at 3s. 6d., including fair flavoured, slightly softish, in large tins.

BELLADONNA-ROOT.—Quiet, with stuff testing 0.55 per cent. alkaloid offering at 33s. c.i.f.

CAMPHOR (REFINED).—Business in Japanese 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. slabs has been done at 1s. 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. c.i.f. for April-May shipment, being steady.

CANARYSEED is considerably dearer owing to a demand coming upon small stocks and to the renewal of hostilities

preventing shipments from Turkey. Good Morocco has been sold at 87s. 6d. per qr., and 84s. to 85s. is required for ordinary Morocco and Turkish. Fine Spanish is unchanged at 92s. per qr.

CANNABIS INDICA continues scarce, the value of genuine Bombay tops being 5s. 9d. African tops are quoted 1s. In the drug-auction two cases Indian siftings were held at 5s.

CARAWAY-SEED is slow of sale at 27s. 6d. to 29s. per cwt. for fair to good Dutch.

CASCARA SAGRADA.—Business has been done in old bark up to 40s.; last year's crop is steady at 36s. per cwt. In the drug auction 80 bags fair thin 1912 crop were limited at 35s. per cwt.

CASTOR OIL.—Hull make is steady, pharmaceutical quality offering at 31l. 10s. per ton, first-pressing at 29l. for prompt or February-June delivery, and 28l. 5s. for July-December, delivered free on wharf London; oil in cases 50s. per ton extra. First-pressing Belgian is 29l. 10s. for prompt and 28l. 10s. for March-December in barrels ex wharf London. In Liverpool good seconds Calcutta is steady at 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb. for either quay or store parcels, and for Belgian 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. is quoted.

CINCHONA.—The shipments from Java to Europe during January amounted to 1,307,400 Amst. lb., against 638,000 Amst. lb. in 1912, 1,421,000 Amst. lb. in 1911, and 1,165,000 Amst. lb. in 1910.

CITRIC ACID remains firm at 1s. 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. for foreign and 1s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for English, only limited quantities being available at these figures.

COCA-LEAVES.—The exports from Java to Europe during January 1913 amounted to 1,600 packages, against 1,869 packages during December 1912.

COCOA BUTTER.—At the Amsterdam auction on Tuesday Van Houten's A quality sold at 84.38c. per half-kilo., against 75.42c. at the last auction, and B quality at 75.15c.

COD-LIVER OIL.—Private advices indicate that the prospects for the cod-fishing are very fair, but that the yield of oil is about 10 per cent. less. In London, at least three agents are now quoting 80s. c.i.f. for finest new Norwegian oil, but one agent quotes 75s. c.i.f. These quotations are for February-March shipment.

According to advices received by cable on February 3 the catch and output up to February 1 was as follows:

	Catch of Cod	Livers for Raw Oils (hect.)	Yield of c.i.o. (hect.)
Lofoten ...	89,000	94	48
Whole Country...	5,900,000	1,964	5,091

As the fishing commenced a week later last year, comparative statistics cannot be given.

Our Bergen correspondent writes on February 3 that the reports from the cod-fishing are rather favourable as to the quantities caught, which was to some extent a surprise. As to the quality of the cod and the fatness of the liver there is, however, a certain falling off. The official reports give the following figures:

	1911	1912	1913
Catch of cod (millions) ...	1.8	6.5	5.9
Yield of cod-liver oil (hect.) ...	1,150	6,400	4,900
Livers for "raw" oils (hect.) ...	1,300	1,900	2,000

The report from Lofoten give the following details as to the conditions of the cod:

	1911	1912	1913
Weight of 100 cod (kilos.) ...	350 to 400	290 to 300	240 to 325
Number of liver (per hect.)...	330 to 400	400 to 500	450
Oil percentage in liver ...	40	40 to 45	—

The quotation for finest non-congealing oil of 1912 season is still about 74s. per barrel c.i.f.

COLOCYNTH.—Apple is quiet at from 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 7d. for pale whole Turkey. Pulp of good pale quality is somewhat scarce, the value of such being 7d. per lb., fair offering at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

COPAIBA is steady at 2s. for filtered B.P. in cases, and unfiltered Maracaibo at 1s. 10d. to 1s. 11d.

COPPER SULPHATE is 5s. per ton cheaper, the usual Liverpool brands offering for February-April delivery at 23l. 10s. per ton, and more distant at 22l. 10s.

CORIANDER-SEED has risen in price suddenly owing to reports of drought in Morocco having affected the pro-

spects of the next crop. Fair quality has been sold at 11s. 6d. up to 14s. per cwt.

CREAM OF TARTAR.—Prices have been advanced a further 1s. this week owing to the demand for prompt delivery exceeding the supply available on spot; 98-per-cent. powder is quoted 89s. and 95-per-cent. 87s.

CUMIN-SEED is quiet at 22s. per cwt. for Morocco, and 27s. 6d. to 29s. 6d. for common to good Malta.

DIGITALIS-LEAVES.—Spot market is quiet at 33s. per cwt.

ERGOT.—There is practically no market at the moment; 3s. 9d. to 3s. 10d. c.i.f. is quoted for German.

EUCALYPTUS OIL.—The market privately is steady, 60-per-cent. B.P. offering at 1s. 6d. and 75-per-cent. at 1s. 7d.; *globulus* is quoted 1s. 7d. to 1s. 8d.

FENUGREEK-SEED is firm at 9s. 3d. to 9s. 6d. per cwt. for Morocco.

GLUCOSE is rather firmer, American offering at 11s. 3d. per cwt. ex works London, but for prompt delivery a slight premium is asked by dealers owing to scarcity.

KOLA.—Privately 5d. is quoted for good West Indian halves.

LEMON OIL.—Cabled quotations from Messina this week show an easier feeling, prices varying from 13s. to 14s. c.i.f., according to brand; on the spot prices vary from 12s. 9d. up to 13s. 6d., and a retail business is being done at and between these figures.

LINSEED is unchanged at 57s. 6d. to 60s. per qr. for fine quality.

LINSEED OIL is dearer, with prompt delivery selling at an advance of 20s. The spot price of pipes closes at 27l., and barrels for immediate delivery 27l. 10s.

MENTHOL is firm but quiet. Business has been done in Kobayashi on spot at 30s., but it is doubtful if this can be repeated. Suzuki is scarce on spot. Arrival market is quiet, with buyers at 1s. less than the quoted price of 32s. 6d. c.i.f. (combined with oil) for April-May shipment. The *Tango Maru* has brought five cases, also 20 cases in tr.

MILK-SUGAR is offering at 57s. to 57s. 6d. per cwt.

MORPHINE.—Although opium is on the easier side, the makers' quotations for morphine salts so far remain unchanged, especially as regards early delivery; the official price for hydrochloride powder is 10s. 10d. per oz.

OPIMUM.—Business continues practically at a standstill, buyers operating from hand to mouth only, the sales including good Turkey druggists' on spot at 21s. per lb.; soft shipping qualities are quoted at from 24s. to 27s. as to quantity and quality. Stocks of Persian are now very fair on spot owing to recent arrivals, but holders are indifferent sellers.

A Smyrna correspondent writes on January 24 that the week has been quiet, with sales of five cases only at 18s. for usual run mixed qualities, for U.S.A. Holders of Karahissar and Yerli grades are still maintaining 19s. to 20s. 6d., and are likely to do so until the winter is over. The arrivals are 2,240 cases, against 1,085 at same date last year.

A Constantinople correspondent writes on February 1 that the sales amount to 21 cases druggists' at from 25s to 260 ptns., 12 cases "softs" at 260 to 270 ptns., and two cases Malatias (tercio) at 247 ptns. per oke. Market is rather weak. There are no complaints from the Interior as to the crops.

H.M. Vice-Consul at Smyrna reports that the cultivation of the 1913 crop has so far proceeded under favourable conditions, although locusts cause anxiety, especially in the Eshmé district.

ORRIS.—Privately spot prices for good Florentine sorts are from 69s. to 70s., and good Verona 52s. 6d.

PEPPERMINT OIL.—Business has been done in leading brands of American tin-oil from first-hands at 11s. 9d., but 11s. 10½d. is now asked. H.G.H. is 15s. London terms. Japanese dementholised is quoted 7s. for Kobayashi and 6s. 11d. for Suzuki on spot; for January-March shipment 6s. 4½d. c.i.f. is quoted for Kobayashi.

PETROLEUM is ¼d. per gal. higher at 8½d. for Russian, 8½d. for ordinary refined American, and 9½d. for water-white.

QUICKSILVER.—Second-hands has declined 1s. on the week, closing at 7l. 7s. 6d., while the leading importer's price is unchanged at 7l. 15s.

QUININE.—Second-hands are a shade easier, with business in B. and S. and (or) Brunswick at 10½d. for recent import and 10d. for old ditto. To-day the German makers report sales at the official price of 10½d.

The landings in London during January were 118,480 oz. and the deliveries 63,408 oz., leaving the stock on January 31 at 3,635,488 oz., against 3,810,656 oz. in January 1912.

At the auction held at Amsterdam on January 31, 1,417½ kilos. (50,000 oz.) Ed. II. were offered and bought in at fl.18 per kilo. The next auction will be held on February 21, when a similar quantity will be offered.

SHELLAC is firmer, with fair sales on a basis of 75s. for usual standard TN orange; GAL has also been sold at 66s., and the value of free AC Garnet is 72s.; for arrival the sales include TN for January-February shipment at 74s.; a large business has been done in futures at higher rates.

SOY is firm at 1s. 8d. per gal. with no Wochan available. Recent arrivals have come to a comparatively bare market.

SPICES.—At auction no *Cloves* were offered; privately market is quiet, with buyers of fair Zanzibar at 10½d. spot. *Ginger* was cheaper, at auction eight cases small cut Calicut selling without reserve at 47s. to 47s. 6d., and 84 bags D rough without reserve at 25s. 6d. *Chillies* were lower, 150 bags Japanese selling without reserve at 23s. 6d. to 24s. for fair mixed yellowish; 147 bales Mombasa were bought in at 45s. No *Pepper* was offered; privately business is quiet, fair black Singapore offering at 5½d.; *White* is quoted at 8½d. for fair Singapore, and at 8½d. for fair Muntok.

STARCH PRODUCTS.—The quotation for *Farina* is 11s. 9d. per cwt. ex wharf London (not 15s. as printed last week). *Starch powder* is also quoted 11s. 9d. and *Dextrin* 16s. 6d. ex wharf.

TARTARIC ACID is on the easier side at from 1s. 0½d. to 1s. 1d. for English and 1s. 0½d. for foreign.

TURPENTINE closes at 31s. 6d. for American on spot, being slightly easier.

London Drug-auctions.

At the auctions of the first- and second-hand drugs held to-day the tone was exceedingly dull, and the bulk of the offerings passed the hammer unsold. Zanzibar aloes of good quality and clean condition sold at higher rates. Cape aloes of the secondary qualities were about 6d. per cwt. firmer, and the tendency is towards higher rates. Curaçao aloes of good quality was neglected. Sumatra benzoin was in good demand at steady rates, and the same applies to Palembang. Colocynth apple was cheaper, and coca-leaves were neglected, buyers' ideas being very low. Calumba sold at cheap rates, but the quality was mixed with pickings. Cardamoms were very firm to 1d. per lb. higher. Dragon's-blood excited no interest, but a slightly better demand was shown for gamboge at steady rates. Jamaica honey was entirely neglected, as was ipecacuanha, although the anticipated decline did not take place. Lime-juice is firm, myrrh and rhubarb neglected. Grey Jamaica sarsaparilla was from 2d. to 3d. dearer, Lima-Jamaica being steady, and native showing no change. Tinnevely scenna was firmer and beeswax generally showed no alteration. The following table shows the quantity of goods offered and sold:

Offered Sold		Offered Sold	
Aconite (Jap.).....	18 ... 0	Cascara sagrada ...	80 ... 0
Aloes—		Cascarilla	6 ... 0
Cape	36 ... 23	Cassia fistula	37 ... 15
Curaçao.....	33 ... 0	Chamomiles	5 ... 0
Socotrine	40 ... 0	Chiretta	26 ... 0
Zanzibar (cases) ..	33 ... 10	Cinnamon oil	18 ... 0
Ambergris ... (pcl.)	1 ... 0	Citronella oil (dms.)	2 ... 0
Ammoniacum	18 ... 0	Coca-leaves	125 ... 26
Argol	7 ... 0	Cod-liver oil.....	10 ... 0
Asafetida	28 ... 0	Colocynth and pulp	16 ... 9
Balsam tolu	5 ... 0	Croton-seed	31 ... 0
Balsam peru.....	6 ... 0	Cubebs	80 ... 0
Bay oil	1 ... 0	Cuscuta	30 ... 0
Benzoin—		Cuttlefish-bone ...	41 ... 10
Palembang	27 ... 20	Damiana	4 ... 4
Sumatra	107 ... 39	Dragon's-blood.....	18 ... 2
Buchu	38 ... 0	Elatarium ... (box)	1 ... 0
Calumba	184 ... 41	Elemi	18 ... 2
Camphor—		Ergot	3 ... 0
(Jap. ref.) (½ oz.)	5 ... 0	Eucalyptus oil	65 ... 0
Canella alba	23 ... 0	Fennel-seed	50 ... 0
Cannabis indica ...	12 ... 0	Galbanum	5 ... 0
Cardamoms & seed	186 ... 75	Galls	14 ... 0

Offered Sold			Offered Sold		
Gamboge	50	2	Pennyroyal oil ...	1	0
Gingergrass oil			Puree	2	0
(pots) 2 ...	0		Rhatany-root	4	4
Guaiacum	1	0	Rhubarb (China)...	133	0
Gum acacia	190	1	Sandalwood	39	0
Gurjun oil	50	10	Sarsaparilla—		
Gambier	5	5	Grey Jam.	11	11
Honey—			Lima Jam.	4	4
Calif.	55	0	Native Jam.	14	4
Cuban	38	0	Scammony-root ...	10	0
Jamaica	30	0	Seedlac	40	0
St. Vincent	1	1	Senna and pods—		
W. I.	31	0	Alexandrian	21	5
Ipecacuanha—			Tinnevely	201	67
Cartagena	6	0	Squill	29	9
East Indian	45	0	Sticklac	60	0
Matto Grosso ...	14	0	Strophanthus	15	0
Minas	10	0	Tamarinds	125	0
Jalap	76	0	Tonka-beans	7	0
Kamala	4	0	Tragacanth	32	29
Lemongrass oil ...	1	0	Turmeric	698	0
Lime-juice	16	2	Wax (Bees)—		
Lime oil	1	1	Abyssinian	8	8
Mastich	9	1	China	8	0
Musk	5	0	East African	4	0
Myrrh	123	0	East Indian	134	17
Nux vomica	136	0	Jamaica	10	1
Olibanum	40	0	Madagascar	62	0
Olive oil	3	0	Morocco	8	0
Opium	1	0	Mozambique	13	13
Orris	12	0	Spanish	5	0
Orange-peel	67	9	St. Lucia	1	0
Pareira brava	18	0	St. Vincent	1	1

ACONITE.—Ten bags of good well-trimmed Japanese were limited at 35s.

ALOES.—A new lot of 33 cases Zanzibar aloes in skins practically all in clean condition, and mostly hard hepatic of good quality, partly sold at the dearer rate of 75s. per cwt., with fair at 55s.; while 52s. 6d. was refused for very skinny. Socotrine in kegs was limited at 62s. 6d. to 67s. 6d. The secondary qualities of Cape aloes sold at firmer rates to 6d. advance. Mossel Bay (20 per cent. tares) realising as under: Fair bright hard firsts, 39s.; fair to good seconds, 37s. to 38s.; partly dull and partly drossy seconds, 36s. to 36s. 6d.; dull, part livery, 35s.; common soft, 31s.; and loose collected, 30s. 6d. per cwt. A lot of 33 boxes Curaçao was bought in, 65s. being wanted for good livery, 58s. for fair, 55s. for part capey turning livery, and 45s. for dull, coarse liver. Privately, market for Curaçao is firm, good liver selling at 60s. to 65s., and fair at 55s.; dull and black are scarce at 50s.

BENZONIN was in better demand at very steady prices, the sales including five cases of good alomdy Sumatra seconds with storax flavour at 8l. 2s. 6d. per cwt. subject, and 12 cases of fair seconds with false packed ends sold at 6l. 10s.; for 18 cases of good thirds with small almonds from 5l. 10s. to 5l. 15s. was paid, and a bid of 5l. 12s. 6d. is to be submitted for further lots. A new parcel of Palembang, said to be the only parcel in first-hands in London, was offered and sold at good prices, 20 cases realising 62s. 6d. per cwt. for fair seconds.

BUCHU.—Spot market remains lifeless, no sales being made; fair to good round greenish was offered at 5s. 9d. to 6s.; bronzy ditto, at 5s. 6d.; fair to good greenish ovals at 1s. 9d. to 1s. 11d.; and small yellowish ovals, 1s. 8d. No long offered.

CALUMBA sold cheaply, 41 bags fair small to medium natural sorts, mixed with pickings, realising 10s., and for five bags damaged a bid of 2s. 6d. is to be made. Privately about 250 bags of similar quality have been sold at 8s. 6d.

CARDAMOMS sold at firm rates to 1d. per lb. advance, the following prices being realised: Ceylon-Mysore, good bold long, palish to pale (few open), 5s. 4d. to 5s. 7d.; bold and medium ditto, 4s. 11d. to 5s. 1d.; small and medium ditto, 4s. 4d. to 4s. 8d.; tiny pale, 3s. 8d. Splits, ordinary to fair brown split and pickings, 3s. 8d. to 4s. 1d.; common pickings, 3s. 4d.; seed, 4s. 7d.; split seed, 4s. 1d. Ceylon-Malabar, small lean, were held at 3s. 4d.

CASSIA FISTULA.—Fifteen baskets of Java sold without reserve at 17s. 6d. for fair fresh leanish pod.

COCA-LEAVES.—A lot of 23 bales Bolivian, or ordinary part mixed and matted quality, sold without reserve at 5½d. per lb., and for three cases of middling greenish and brown Ceylon Huanuco 5½d. was paid. Seventy-four bags of powdered Java coca leaves were offered, and a bid of 3½d. was refused for the first lot of fair greenish quality. Two cases of wild Ceylon-Truxillo were bought in at 4d. per lb.

COLOCYNTH.—Four bales of country-damaged Persian pulp sold without reserve at 2½d. per lb. Five cases sold at lower rates, mostly whole apple of fair and small to medium size, selling at 3¼d., and partly broken at 3¼d. also.

CUBES.—Fair but stalky Bombay were held at 8l. per cwt., and Java free from stalk at 7l.

CUTTLEFISH BONE.—Fair Bombay palish sorts were limited at from 2½d. to 3½d. per lb. Business has been done privately.

DAMIANA.—Four bags of sea-damaged pickings sold without reserve with all faults for account of whom it may concern at 3¼d. per lb.

DRAGON'S-BLOOD.—Two cases of partly false packed lump and pickings sold at 5l. 10s. per cwt. Five cases of ordinary seedy Singapore lump were bought in at 7l., and for finger 8l. 10s. was wanted.

ELEMI.—Two cases rather dullish paste sold at 50s. per cwt.

GAMBIER.—Five bags of cubes sold at 33s. 6d. per cwt.

GAMBOGE was steady, a single case of good Siam pipe, slightly blocky, selling at 14l. 5s. A further case of ordinary, rather blocky, pipe sold at 13l. per cwt.

GURJUN OIL.—Ten drums from Penang sold at 4d. per lb.

IPECACUANHA.—A break in prices was anticipated in this drug, but no actual business was done publicly, and the market can only be described as weak and lifeless, with a few sales at secret prices. The new lot of 45 bales Johore was offered and bought in, the price not transpiring; the highest bid obtainable was 6s. 9d. The quality was inferior to the previous consignment, showing a slight greyish mould, having probably been dried under imperfect conditions. Ten bales Minas were bought in at 8s. 6d.; five bales Matto Grosso were held at 8s. 2d.

JALAP.—Private market is dull, 7 per cent. offering at 9½d. on spot; in auction small to bold part heavy V.C. tuber (without test) were quoted 1s. 2d., and ditto, mostly Tampico character, at 11d.

LIME-JUICE firm, 2 hds. good pale raw Dominican selling at 1s. 6d. per gal.

LIME OIL.—A single case containing a tin of hand-pressed Dominican and a tin of orange oil sold at 9s. 9d.

MASTICH.—A single case of fair slightly specky tear sold at 2s. 9d. per lb.

ORANGE-PEEL was easier, nine cases of fair thin Maltese strip selling without reserve at from 6d. to 6¼d. per lb. Fifty-eight packages of new crop were offered and a bid of 5½d. was refused for the first lot, 5½d. being the limit. For four cases of good bright 6½d. was bid and refused, the limit being 7½d.

RHATANY.—Seven bales of very chumpy, lying in Liverpool, sold at 2d. per lb., no allowances or discount, without reserve.

RHUBARB.—Privately the demand shows an improvement, more than usual having been sold from second-hands. In auction, however, no business was done. For bold round Shensi (High-dried character), with three-quarters pale pinky fracture, 2s. 9d. was wanted; medium and bold flat High-dried, with three-quarters good pinky fracture, was held at 1s. 2d., and medium to bold round Canton, with three-quarters fair pinky fracture, part loose and spongy, at 2s. 3d. per lb.

SANDALWOOD.—A bid of 30l. per ton is to be submitted for 20 bags chips, and chips and shavings from Madras; 60l. was wanted for blocks.

SARSAPARILLA was 2d. to 3d. per lb. higher, 11 bales genuine grey Jamaica selling at from 2s. 1d. to 2s. 2d. per lb. Of Native-Jamaica four bales fair red sold at 1s., lovely fair palish red slightly mixed going at 10d., and

sea-damaged 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. Four bales Lima-Jamaica sold at the steady price of 1s. 10d. per lb.

SENNA sold at rather firmer rates for Tinnevely leaf, including medium greenish leaf, a little specky, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 3d.; small and medium, 2d. to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; ordinary small, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.; common small yellowish, 1d. subject; and inferior yellow, damaged, 1d. per lb.; dark, partly sea-damaged pods, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.; fair sound pods, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. Four bales fair greenish sea-damaged leaf realised 3d., without reserve. A single bag of dark Mecca pods sold at 1d. per lb., without reserve; three bales ordinary Alexandrian half-leaf slightly smoke-damaged, ex Bull wharf fire, realised 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and one bale of pods, ditto, 3d. per lb., without reserve.

SQUILL.—For nine bags of fair white 18s. was paid.

WAX (BEES').—Jamaica was steady, the sales including a cask of dark brown at 7l. 10s.; 7l. 12s. 6d. was refused for fair quality, and a single case of fair pale brown and grey St. Vincent sold at 7l. 5s. Of Abyssinian eight bales offered and sold at 7l. 7s. 6d. for fair block, and 13 bags Mozambique were disposed of at 6l. 5s. for fair part drossy block. Madagascar of fair quality was limited at 7l. 3s. 9d. per cwt. East Indian had been in fair demand privately, 17 cases of good bleached Calcutta being disposed of. The price of this quality is 8l. 5s. for the best, dull offering at 7l. 15s., and unbleached at 6l. 17s. 6d.

WOOD OIL.—A small sale of 10 drums from Penang was made at 4d. per lb.

Manchester Chemical-market.

February 4.

The market is quiet, and no doubt owing to a large amount of previous orders submitted for acceptance there is no wonder that there is a temporary lull in demand. Deliveries against contracts, however, both on export and home account continue on a good scale, and the activity in the cotton districts is unabated. There is practically no change to note in quotations of heavy chemicals and alkalis. Sulphate of copper declined in value rather rapidly, owing to the condition of the raw metal. There has since been a slight recovery, but it is just possible that the position will be seriously affected by the present condition of matters in the Balkans; the nearest approach to quotations may be taken as 24l. to 24l. 5s. per ton, delivered Manchester. Yellow prussiate of potash has eased considerably, in view of late developments, but, owing to small stocks, the position is steadier. White powdered arsenic remains quiet, and favours buyers at about 22l. to 23l. per ton, delivered Manchester. Cream of tartar firm. Recovered sulphur is quoted 5l. 5s. per ton; roll, 7l. to 7l. 5s.; and flowers, 7l. 10s. per ton. Sulphate of zinc, 9l. per ton. Solvent naphtha is steady at 2s. 8d. to 2s. 10d. per gal., with miscible quoted 3s. per gal. Coal-tar products do not show much change. Sulphate of ammonia, 14l. 3s. 9d. to 14l. 5s. f.o.r. Manchester.

Heavy Chemicals.

A quietly steady tone is the prevailing feature of the heavy-chemical market just at present, though works keep fairly busy with contract orders and working into stock for heavy deliveries later on.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA still continues weak and quiet. Values show slight decline, with present nearest figures as follows: Beckton, 25-per-cent. ammonia guaranteed, February-April, 14l.; London terms, prompt, 13l. 12s. 6d.; Leith, 14l. 8s. 9d.; Liverpool, 14l. 7s. 6d. to 14l. 8s. 9d.; and Hull, 14l. 6s. 3d.

ALKALI-PRODUCE.—A good general trade, more especially on contract account, is being done at steady prices. Bleaching-powder meets with good inquiry, and rules 5l. 5s. to 5l. 15s. per ton for softwood casks, on rails, according to circumstances. Caustic soda is moving well, though not quite so briskly as of late; 76 to 77 per cent., 10l. to 10l. 10s.; 70 per cent., 9l. 5s. to 9l. 15s.; and 60 per cent., 8l. 5s. to 8l. 15s. Ammonia alkali is in fair request on basis of 2l. 17s. 6d. to 3l. 10s., free on rails for home trade. Soda-crystals, 2l. 2s. 6d. to 2l. 5s. per ton, free on rails, in bags. Bicarbonate of soda, 5l. to 5l. 15s. per ton, according to packages, etc. Saltsake steady at 42s. 6d. in bulk. Chlorates of potash and soda have been in better demand at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 4d. per lb. Yellow prussiates of potash and soda continue to maintain a firm tone and move free. Quotations run from 6d. to 7d. for potash, and 4d. to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for soda. Hyposulphite of soda is in about average request, at figures varying from 5l. 7s. 6d. to 5l. 17s. 6d. per ton for ordinary

crystals in casks and in larger lots; smaller quantities extra. Deliveries in 1-cwt. kegs run 5l. 17s. 6d. to 8l. per ton, according to quality and quantity. Silicates of soda are firm, with fair demand for both home and export; 140° Tw., 4l. 10s. to 5l.; 100° Tw., 4l. to 4l. 10s., and 75° Tw., 3l. 12s. 6d. to 4l. 2s. 6d. per ton, in accordance with quality, quantity, and destination.

European Vintages' Output.

Messrs. Kirkpatrick, Barr & Paton, 4 Cullum Street, E.C., have issued the following statistics regarding the European vintages for the last six years, which are of interest as bearing on the tartaric acid and cream of tartar markets. The figures represent "millions of hectolitres":

	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912
French	66	61	54	29	45	59
Algiers	9	8	8	8	9	6.5
Italian	54	52	60	29	42	45
Spanish	18	19	15	11	17	14
	147	140	137	77	113	124.5

Olive Oil.

In the course of their annual report a Liverpool firm of olive-oil brokers state that the quality available this year is a matter of concern; the new Spanish oil is reported to be of abnormally high acidity, and a shipment of Malaga which arrived recently tested as high as 23 per cent. oleic acid. Such oil is useless except for the soap-pan and for Turkey red, but for these purposes only a very limited quantity is now used. It will no longer be safe for buyers to purchase even Spanish oil without stipulating for some limit of acidity, but consumers may be compelled to use oil of a higher range of acidity than they desire or are accustomed to. Fortunately, old crop Spanish oil is chiefly of low acidity, but this is in increasing demand in Spain; in fact, the consumption in the Peninsula is enormous and is going up by leaps and bounds. Oil of low acidity is therefore likely to command an advancing premium. There is little likelihood of edible and fine sweet Levant oils being available for export this year. What is called "rectified," "neutral," or industrial oil is still being offered on this side, and as it passes the olive-oil test for purity it is only to be detected by the peculiar smell and taste; oil adulterated with arachide is still in evidence. Serious losses have been caused to some importers, who, tempted by low quotations, bought from unreliable shippers, who failed to deliver, and in some cases disappeared altogether, probably to repeat their operations elsewhere.

Quicksilver.

The export demand has lately been distinctly quieter and with rather increasing outside competition. In spite of the control held over the supply of Spanish by the leading London importers, whose price remains at 7l. 15s. per bottle, the price for second-hand parcels has further shaded, and now stands at a discount of fully 7s. 6d. per bottle. Some people argue that the current price is comparatively low, but the market is now apparently increasingly feeling the effect of the growth of supplies outside Spain, which has enabled dealings to be carried on a larger scale with less fear of being "squeezed." The present first-hand price for Spanish is about half-way between the highest and lowest points recorded last year—namely, 8l. 12s. 6d. and 7l. 3s. 6d. respectively. Market fluctuations are now largely the outcome of legitimate business. There are but few countries where the output is large enough to influence the market. While Spain has been the largest producer for a long time past, the Italian mines have of recent years made considerably more rapid headway, and it is difficult to form an opinion as to how far the Italian output may yet be increased, information on the prospect of the industry being difficult to obtain. While it is claimed that the quality of the Italian product is as good as that of the Spanish, its growing competition, as well as that of Austrian producers, whose output is taken care of outside the London market, constitute a factor to be reckoned with. At the same time allowance has to be made for the fact that the world's trade requirements appear to grow with the expansion of the output. Should the American duty on quicksilver be eventually reduced from its present rather prohibitive level, this would doubtless stimulate imports from Europe, as the Californian output has of late years steadily diminished, owing to the exhaustion of several of the local mines. The production in Mexico, which commenced not many years ago, may possibly be developed to an appreciable extent with a return to normal conditions in that country. America, of course, now finds some difficulty to cover her needs from domestic sources, and has occasionally to import parcels from Europe.

Society of Chemical Industry.

London Section.

A MEETING of this Section was held at Burlington House, Piccadilly, W., on February 3. Dr. W. R. E. Hodgkinson was in the chair, and it was intimated that he has been elected Chairman in place of Mr. G. T. Holloway, who has had to resign on account of ill-health.

IS WHITE PAINT POISONOUS?

This was substantially the question which Professor H. E. Armstrong, F.R.S., and Mr. C. A. Klein set out to answer in a paper bearing the title, "The behaviour of paint under the conditions of practice, with special reference to the aspersions cast upon lead paints." The scientific exposition which the authors gave was interspersed with happy impromptus, which frequently sent the audience into ripples of amusement. The paper was prompted by one that had been read by Professor Bailey at Liverpool, where he had advanced the propositions that white paint was toxic, and that the toxicity was due to a volatile lead compound, conclusions which Professor Armstrong said were illogical, unwarranted by the facts, and without justification, an opinion which was received with loud applause. The paper dealt first with the loss in weight of paint films of different classes of paints (namely, zinc oxide, lithopone—a mixture of lead and zinc—barytes, and white lead) containing a fixed percentage of volatile thinners, without driers, and the comparative loss in weight due to volatility of thinners after one hour. These were illustrated by diagrams, which showed that the paints begin rapidly to dry, but later the volatilisation loss is compensated for by increase in weight. This compensation was most clearly shown by the increased weight of the lead paint. The symptoms said to be due to white-paint poisoning were then discussed, and the lecturer showed that these could all be attributed to turpentine, particularly the effect on the blood-corpuscles. Dr. Goadby had found that animals brought in contact with lead paint are unaffected after 300 hours, but they at once begin to suffer when they are subjected to turpentine paint or to turpentine vapour alone. Professor Armstrong showed what he called a physiological test—namely, the influence of turpentine on the leaf of *Aucuba japonica*, which, when exposed to the vapour of turpentine at a temperature of 37° C., rapidly goes black. This is produced by the action of the volatile body on the glucosides, in a manner not yet understood. If a leaf be shut up in a bottle with material, nothing happens when lead paint or any oil used for making lead paint is employed, but with turpentine, or the ordinary liquids used in thinning, the leaf blackens in an hour. The vast majority of the complaints made against paints are simply and solely due to the turpentine. Professor Armstrong then proceeded to detail the results of experiments to show the non-volatility of lead, and he attributed lead-poisoning to inhalation of dust, to remedy which he suggested the use of exhaust-fans to remove the vitiated air.

DISCUSSION.

The Chairman having opened the discussion, a very brisk series of speeches followed, some of them of an exceedingly racy and plain-spoken character. Dr. Collins, who was called upon by the Chairman, excused himself by saying that, being a member of the Departmental Committee, it would not be proper for him to discuss the paper, even if he had wished to do so.—Mr. Pearce, M.P., expressed the pleasure he had felt in listening to Professor Armstrong's paper. In the unlikely event of the lead-paint question coming before the House of Commons, the members, who knew nothing about the subject, would have to be guided by the weight of opinion, and he was sure that this paper would be of great value to the members.—Mr. Vicars spoke of the necessity for practical tests, and he suggested the appointment of a Joint Committee, expressing his willingness to give 150*l.* to bear the expense of the tests.—Mr. Heaton said that he had been written to by the Departmental Committee and asked if he would give evidence, but he replied that what was wanted

was practical tests.—Another speaker referred to the possibility of colloid lead being carried over with volatile vapours, and in such a fine condition that it could not be prevented entering the lungs; whilst another stated that he had found 10 per cent. of lead in the scrapings from the walls of the boiling-house. If lead is not volatile, where did this metal come from? One of the speakers also drew attention to the effect of Russian turpentine, which, he said, is much worse than French or American.

In his reply on the discussion, Professor Armstrong said he was the first to examine Russian turpentine in the 'seventies, and Tilden, to whom he sent a sample, showed in what way it is different from French and American turpentine. He also said that Kingzett used the Russian variety in the making of "Sanitas." He ridiculed the idea of lead being volatile. (Applause.) The subject having been discussed till after 10 o'clock, the great majority of the audience left the meeting.

Nottingham Section.

A MEETING of this Section took place at University College on January 29, when Mr. H. J. Wheaton, of Water Softeners, Ltd., London, gave a demonstration of

WATER-SOFTENING BY PERMUTIT.

Permutit is an artificial "Zeolite," by which term is understood some silicate containing water, which, in contradistinction to other silicates occurring in nature, decomposes and is soluble in dilute acids. These bodies are combinations of aluminium and other bases with silicic acid, which possess the property of exchanging their bases for others. In his demonstration Mr. Wheaton first showed that Nottingham town-water, having a hardness of approximately 10.5 gr. per gal., could be softened by means of a sodium Permutit filter to 0°. This was demonstrated by the Boutron-Boudet soap-test; and he also showed by the ammonium-oxalate test that the whole of the calcium present in the hard water was removed. The regeneration of the exhausted Permutit by sodium-chloride solution was shown by passing 10 per cent. salt solution through a filter which had been previously exhausted and precipitating the calcium and magnesium in the filtrate with ammonium oxalate and microcosmic salt. To show the elimination of iron in solution from water, a dilute solution of ferric chloride was passed through a manganese Permutit filter and tests made with ammonium sulphocyanide before and after filtration. The absence of even a trace of colour in the filtered water showed clearly the entire removal of the iron. The elimination of manganese was demonstrated by filtering a solution of potassium permanganate through the same filters, the absence of colours in the filtrate showing the removal of the manganese.

Mr. Wheaton also explained that by the addition of a slight excess of lime-water to the hard water, followed by immediate filtration through sodium Permutit, a water perfectly clear, of about 2 gr. per gal. alkalinity, and free from caustic alkali—that is, giving no coloration with phenol-phthalein—could be obtained. By the substitution of barium hydrate for the lime in the above experiment he showed that sulphates in the water could be reduced to about 2 gr. per gal., and that the treated water was quite free from barium salts.

SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS.

(From "C. & D." Correspondents.)

"The Chemist and Druggist" is regularly supplied by order to all the members of the seven Societies and Associations of Chemists in British South Africa, as well as to other chemists in business there.

Cape Province.

COLONIAL PHARMACY BOARD.—The following is a report of the last quarterly meeting of the Colonial Pharmacy Board held in Cape Town in December. There were present: Mr. A. Walsh (President), Dr. C. F. K. Murray, Messrs. G. R. Cleghorn, G. Darroll, W. K. Mager, J. A. Mathew, J. Parry, and J. H. Holland (Secretary). On behalf of the Board the President extended a welcome to

Mr. Parry upon his return from England.—Discussion took place upon the case of a chemist whose name had been removed from the Register in 1898 owing to the fact that a registered letter addressed to him in terms of Section 36 of the Medical and Pharmacy Act had failed to find him, and who, having now been traced, had been requested by the Board to re-register, but had failed to take steps in this direction. The matter was represented to the Department of the Interior, with a request that the magistrate in his district should be instructed to refuse to issue a fiscal licence to him until he has complied with the Board's request. It was decided to address a further communication to the Secretary for the Interior to urge that in view of the near approach of the time for the renewal of trading licences, the necessary instructions, if not already given, should be issued as soon as possible.—A letter addressed by a chemist to one of the members of the Colonial Medical Council, and referred to the Board, was considered. The letter complained that mixtures and compounds containing poisons were being sold in his district by others than licensed chemists. It was resolved to send a communication to the writer of the letter, requesting him to furnish fuller particulars, when the Board would inquire into it. A letter from the Secretary of the Eastern Districts Pharmaceutical Association on the same subject was replied to in similar terms.—Three applications for registration as chemists and druggists were approved, while a fourth was held over pending the receipt of a declaration of identity, which did not accompany the application.—It was resolved that a letter of thanks be addressed to the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain as a mark of the Board's appreciation of the courtesy and attention extended by members and officials of the Society to Messrs. Mager and Parry during their recent visits to England.—Seven candidates presented themselves at the half-yearly examination held in conjunction with this meeting. Two candidates passed, a third was passed by resolution of the Board, and the remaining four failed to satisfy the examiners.

Transvaal.

PERSONAL.—Mr. C. A. Geen, chemist and druggist, Potchefstroom, has received cabled intelligence of the death of his mother at Newton Abbot, Devonshire.

O.F.S. MEDICAL AND PHARMACY COUNCIL.—A meeting was held at Bloemfontein on January 10. Those present were Dr. A. B. Ward (President), Drs. Bidwell, De Kock, Manning, Pretorius, and Tomory, Mr. Whiteside (Dental member), and Mr. Hewitt (Pharmaceutical member). After disposing of the formal business, the Secretary stated that Mrs. Larsen had intimated her decision of proceeding no further with her application for registration as a chemist and druggist in the Province, or otherwise for immediate admission to that examination of the Council. The matter was therefore closed, but the letter received from the Pharmaceutiske Læreanstalt of Copenhagen was to the effect that that Institution issued diplomas for a Major and a Minor examination, of which the former entitles, and the latter does not entitle its holder to registration and independent practice as a pharmacist in Denmark. An application from I. Roystowski for admission to the Chemists' and Druggists' examination was received. The papers were in order, but the certificate of the School Higher examination, which had to be produced as a condition precedent to the right to enter, had faded in the typed portions so considerably as to be almost indecipherable. After members had carefully scrutinised the document, it was decided to communicate with the Registrar of the University of the Cape of Good Hope. Examiners were then appointed, and the date of the examination fixed for February 25 and 26. Mr. Hewitt raised the question whether a cough-medicine containing less than 4 minims of vin. antim. tart. per adult dose should be labelled "Poison," in view of the third schedule to the principal ordinance. That schedule provided a list of poisons which must be so labelled. In this list was a tartar emetic. The next item immediately succeeding was ergot "and its preparations." It was urged that the specific inclusion of the latter involved the exclusion from the table of the preparations of tartar emetic. Mr. Hewitt cited an English case in point. After discussion, it was resolved that the Council "is not prepared to give any expression of opinion on the point raised." The other business before the meeting concerned medical men only, but an interesting discussion took place as to

whether the Press must withdraw when the Council resolves into committee. After discussion, it was decided that the Press reporters might remain if they chose, but that nothing which transpired in committee should be reported except with the Council's sanction, and within the limits prescribed by them. The Council then resolved into committee, and prolonged discussion on several matters ensued.

TRADE-MARKS.

Objections to the registration of any of the undermentioned applications must be stated on Form T.M. No. 7 (obtainable at Money Order Offices for £1) and lodged with Mr. W. Temple Franks, Comptroller-General, Patents Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C., within one month of the dates mentioned.

The figures in parentheses refer to the classes in which the marks are desired, for a list of which, with particulars as to registration, see "The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary," p. 444.

(From the "Trade-marks Journal," January 22, 1913.)

Facsimile signature "MARIE PATRICE"; for all goods (48). By Marie Patrice, De Montford House, Streatham High Road, Surrey. 346,991.

"SOCIETY"; for goods (48). By J. Gosnell & Co., Ltd., 213 Blackfriars Road, London. 347,969.

(From the "Trade-marks Journal," January 29, 1913.)

Oblong labels with words "KAISER-BORAX"; for borax (1, 2, 3, 47, and 48). By H. Mack, Syrlinstrasse, 2, Ulm-on-Danube, Germany. 346,754/8.

"PRINTEX"; for chemicals (1). By Printex Co., Ltd., 19 Cursitor Street, London, E.C. 347,708.

"GLORIA"; for chemicals (1). By T. S. Harris & Co., Ltd., 4 Lloyds Avenue, London, E.C. 347,897.

"OLEXO"; for chemical disinfectants, etc. (1). By the Alpha Chemical Co., Holland Street, Manchester. 347,874.

"PHENTAS"; for disinfectants, etc. (2). By Bowdler & Bickerdike, New Lane, Oswaldtwistle. 347,875.

"MOLASSINE"; for veterinary chemicals (2). By the Molassine Co., Ltd., East Greenwich. 348,118.

"FERROCARNIS"; for medicine (3). By Brand & Co., Ltd., 74 South Lambeth Road, London, S.W. 346,870.

Label device including word "SIRAN"; for a cough medicine (3). By Chemische Fabrik "Nassovia," Biebricherstrasse 5, Wiesbaden. 343/111.

"ILUN"; for goods (3). By the Bayer Co., Ltd., 20 Booth Street, Manchester. 347,925.

Circular device of woman water-carrier; for medicinal waters (3). By the Pyrenean Waters Co., Ltd., 16 Piccadilly Arcade, London, W. 348,007.

"SNOWLAX"; for medicinal chemicals (3). By Snowdon, Sons & Co., Ltd., Westferry Road, Millwall, E. 348,211.

"LITEX"; for all goods (8). By Groos, Ltd., 22 Verulam Street, London, E.C. 343,992.

Optical device with words "HARRISON'S CONTOUR LENSES INCREASE LATERAL VISION," and facsimile signature "ANDREW J. HARRISON" ("Contour" disclaimed); for optical lenses (8). By A. J. Harrison, 8 Midland Arcade, Birmingham. 346,723.

Oval portrait of Eastern lady; for a hair-dye (48). By H. Serventi, 51 Great Marlborough Street, London, W. 347,999.

Chemists' Calendars.

MR. HAROLD J. PARSONS, chemist and druggist, The Select Pharmacy, Ilminster, circulates a nicely produced illustrated almanac, which contains also a price-list. Mr. Parsons took over the business this year, and has dentistry and photographic goods as accessories.

MESSRS. ALBERT HILDESHEIMER & SON, colour-printers, 50 Moor Lane, London, E.C., send out an attractive calendar. It is an artistic production, and of the variety which shows a fresh date daily. The block of dates is, however, placed in a reservoir, and has behind the package a spring, so that the new date always appears in its proper place in the frame when the old one is removed.



Memoranda for Correspondents.

All communications must be accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers, otherwise they cannot be dealt with. Queries by subscribers on dispensing, legal, and miscellaneous subjects connected with the business are replied to in these columns if they are considered to be of general interest. Letters submitted for publication (if suitable) should be written on one side of the paper only. Their publication in "The Chemist and Druggist" does not imply Editorial agreement with the opinions expressed.

Basis of Insurance Dispensing Prices.

SIR,—I noticed in your most excellent and useful leading article of January 25, p. 129, on the National Health Insurance Dispensing, the following statement: "It is best to adopt a net price list as the primary price." I have no doubt you have some good reason for saying this, but to myself and others it is not apparent. Net prices are in every case issued in conjunction with short terms of credit, and arranged accordingly, and as the Local Committees do not, at any rate at present, propose settling their accounts on the 15th of the month following the dispensing of the scrips, it seems to me that the list to be adopted is the drug list, which is subject to a discount of 5 per cent. on a three-months' account, this giving the pharmacist some little margin for carriage and other items. I am the more convinced that this is correct inasmuch as I was shown recently a signed tariff as between the Committee and Chemists' Association of a large town in the Western Midlands in which was included a clause that the price of any article not in the tariff was to be calculated as per the method set out, using the list of a certain wholesale firm, the selection of this particular firm having been made from the fact that their list was the highest priced one all round that the local Association could find. You are wise to advise "there is no occasion for haste in pricing," as I find even now there are some dispensers who have not been charging the dispensing fee on such lines as glycer. bellad., lin. belladon. meth., etc., when ordered unpounded.

Yours truly,

H. W. HARRIE.

300 Christchurch Road, Bournemouth.

[The prices in the tariff are based upon the net price list of a leading wholesale drug-house, and we were early advised that that list or a similar one should be followed.—EDITOR, C. & D.]

Insurance Act Dispensing.

SIR,—In my first letter to the C. & D. I asked: What is supervision? I now ask, how can the company chemists, who only employ one qualified man, comply with the Insurance Act and the Shops Act? Either one or both of these hurriedly-made laws must be broken or evaded. To carry out both laws each chemist's branch must employ two qualified men in future. It stands to reason that where a brisk trade is done the qualified manager cannot neglect profitable business to superintend "tuppenny" dispensing, and he is compelled to take half a day's holiday. There must therefore be a greater demand for qualified assistants, and now is the time for them to put a value on their services even if proprietors set no value on their own. It will swallow up the profit on a few thousand prescriptions to pay the outdoor wages of an extra hand.

Yours truly,

Hereford.

J. J. JACKSON, Ph.C.

Lancashire Insurance Committee and Appliances.

SIR,—Referring to your notice in last issue *re* above Committee, I wish to state that this Committee at the meeting on January 27 definitely decided that it could not pay for any dressings and appliances not mentioned in the list, notwithstanding the footnote at the bottom of the front page of its tariff sent out. This decision is in perfect accord with the Act as stated in Clause 1,

page 29 of Provisional Regulations for Medical Benefit. It is probable that a note to this effect will be sent round, but in the meantime it will be for chemists to bear this intimation in mind, and supply only dressings, etc., on the list, unless the patient or doctor pays for them. These remarks do not apply to the drug list. This communication is sent with the approval of the Chairman of the Medical Sub-committee.

Eccles, February 4.

WILLIAM I. SCHOLES.

The Mile Limit.

SIR,—I consider the above an absolute and ridiculous farce, a great injustice to all rural chemists like myself. It ought to be abolished at once. One-half of my customers have to pass my shop-door to go to the doctors' surgeries a few yards away, the doctors here having taken possession of all that can be considered a mile away, some of which I do not consider that distance myself. To-day one of my customers, who lives about a mile away in one direction, informed me she was having to pass my shop to fetch medicine from a doctor a mile and a half from here in the opposite direction, a two-and-a-half-mile walk! She was much annoyed, as she would have preferred to get it here. I feel confident there must be many chemists in the same predicament as myself, having to get extra help, and then having insufficient to make it pay through the greed of the doctors. What can we do in the matter?

Yours,

VERAX. (208/32.)

"As in a Mirror."

SIR,—Referring to your editorial note last week headed "As in a Mirror," here is my own experience. I started pill-punching in a northern seaport lured by an advertisement in the local paper, but, once embarked upon my career, I think the pharmaceutical "Pink 'Un" has been my guide and helper in every move I have made. When "out of my time" it gave me the option of two south coast watering-places, in one of which I stayed twelve months. When I left it found me a berth in the West Country, which I kept for three years. Then it guided me to a busy Midland city, where I remained for two years, and next went up for the Minor. This being safely negotiated, reference again to the C. & D. supplement procured me a twelve months' sojourn abroad; next nine weeks locum work at home, and then a choice of two more Continental berths, one of which I filled for six months. Returning home after these adventures, my coloured friend provided me with a West-end crib, but did not let me stay there long, because a few months later it offered me a business for sale, and again I took its advice. Even though I have settled down "on my own" it has not forsaken me, for I still make use of this friend in various ways, and I am more than ever convinced that, rightly used, it, with its worthy parent, the C. & D., form the pharmacist's best vade-mecum from the cradle to the grave.

Yours truly,

"A LONDON CHEMIST." (223/7.)

SIR,—Not many who, like myself, have had experience with doctors and with chemists will agree with the view expressed in your leaderette of to-day's issue, that the position of the erstwhile doctor's dispenser is better for the advent of the National Insurance Act. For the same pay he will be required to work almost twice the hours, which certainly is a queer method of improving one's status. Then to change from dispensing to peddling penn'orths of soft-soap is something like an Irishman's rise, and, finally, the doctor is, as a rule, a gentleman, and treats his dispenser as such.

Yours truly,

CHELTONTIAN. (223/12.)

Pulv. Cynoglossi.

SIR,—Referring to "Xrayser's" comments on pulv. cynoglossi in your issue of January 4, it may interest you to know that in this part of the world, which is very largely settled with Norwegians and Danes, pulvis ad pilulas cynoglossi of the Danish Pharmacopœia and pulvis cynoglossi compositus of the Norwegian Pharmacopœia are often called for. The latter contains hound's-tongue root,

opium, olibanum, myrrh, henbane seeds, saffron, cloves and cinnamon.

Yours very truly,

F. A. UPSHER SMITH.

Saint Paul, U.S.A., January 22.

The Fallen Idol.

SIR,—Will you allow me a little space in which to call attention to the lamentable loss of reputation suffered by the medical profession of this country during the past year or so?

(1) The General Medical Council has brought upon itself the publicly expressed disgust of many by its treatment of Dr. Axham, who committed the crime of administering anaesthetics to Mr. Barker's patients. These patients, in spite of the fact that Mr. Barker, the "bone-setter," has not passed certain examinations, loudly proclaim their eternal indebtedness to his methods of treatment.

(2) The General Medical Council is condemned by all who have the knowledge which gives a right to express an opinion, for allowing the present edition of the British Pharmacopoeia to remain for fourteen years, and to be admittedly wholly "out of date" and quite insufficient for modern needs.

(3) The doctors as a whole have shown themselves to be animated by sheer grasping self-interest in their negotiations with the Chancellor of the Exchequer with respect to the National Insurance Act. A large number of members of the British Medical Association are, above all things, anxious to deprive the pharmacist of his legitimate work of dispensing medicines—an anxiety which others half-heartedly affect to deplore.

(4) Evidence given before the Select Committee on Patent Medicines and in a recent "consumption" lawsuit has shown that many medical practitioners are not ashamed to prescribe and "dispense" for their patients secret remedies (if the manufacturer will supply a gallon free of charge) of whose composition they know little or nothing, and to give (or sell) testimonials to such secret remedies, in spite of the self-righteous attitude of the B.M.A. and Dr. Chapple.

Sir, I have been brought up to respect and almost revere the medical profession of this country. I have always known that there is necessarily a large element of humbug in medical practice. But it is only recently that I have found myself obliged to confess that my idol has feet of clay and legs of brass. Cannot the governing bodies of the profession realise, what the rank and file apparently never can be expected to understand, that the reputation of the calling should be treated as of more importance than medical jealousy, distrust of pharmacists, cheap-and-easy prescribing, and any number of eight-and-sixpences? In conclusion, will you let me narrate an instructive incident which recently happened, premising that I am not now engaged in pharmacy? In the suburb where I live all the doctors dispense their own physic. I asked the practitioner attending my wife if he would write prescriptions which I might take to the local pharmacist. After a lot of argument as to the superiority of medical dispensing, he at last agreed to comply with my wish, telling me at the same time that he would make an extra charge for doing so. One of the ingredients in the mixture was "Liq. ammon. co. (X & Y) 1 in 2," which I had no difficulty in recognising as a cheap substitute for a B.P. compound, and this in spite of the fact that in my correspondence with my medical friend I had laid stress on my wish to be sure that I was not receiving aqueous tinctures or similar abominations. I think, Sir, that perhaps I ought not to sign my name, as I remain on good terms with my doctor and desire to do so.

DISILLUSIONED. (171/61.)

Subscribers' Symposium.

For questions, answers, incidents, and interchange of opinions among "C. & D." readers.

Appreciations.

"In enclosing current year's subscription, I beg to congratulate you on the gorgeous Winter Issue just to hand. Your article on State Insurance pricing and Mr. Mortimer's window-dressing advice are specially useful."—J. F. U. (140/26).

"In these days of darkness we are sorely in need of more light, and as I understand it is to be found reflected in the pages of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST I enclose P.O.

value 10s., and shall be obliged by your sending me a regular weekly supply of these precious rays, the value of which I am not unacquainted with, 'though lost awhile.' Please date from first issue of the year and oblige."—(150/36.)

"Would you kindly send me 1 doz. leaflets N.H.I. Notes and Formulas at 6d. per doz. post free? Also Pricing card as advertised at 7d. post free. I enclose 1s. 1d. in stamps in payment. Your kind attention will very much oblige, and I take this opportunity of personally thanking you for not only anticipating the pharmacist's difficulty in manipulating this ponderous and obscure Act, but also the business acumen you exhibit in grappling with it in a very lucid and helpful manner. I somewhat fear 'our very dear friend,' the famous gentleman from Wales, does not appreciate the great assistance he receives at this critical moment, especially the Scottish chemist, whose well-earned customer he has pounced upon, and the legitimate profits derived therefrom will make a considerable difference in his income."—A. S. T. (214/50).

Bonus to Assistants.

Replying to "Manager" (C. & D., January 25, p. 177), *Another Manager* (234/41) writes: "The individual chemist, when he hears of the large turnover effected by the well-known drug companies by means of a commission on sales given to their assistants, naturally wishes to evolve some such plan that shall be applicable to his own business. To begin with, some sort of sales-record is a necessity. The larger companies adopt the well-known duplicate counter-sales books, in which each article purchased is more or less legibly written out and the top half given to the customer. The bottom half, being the carbon copy, is left in the book, and it is an easy matter to go through each book when finished, and mark each item in some way that is to bear a given bonus. In the larger businesses a special staff is engaged in dissecting the counter-books and allotting to each man his share. In a smaller business, where one of the paper-roll type of cash-tills is employed, the short name of the item may be written in a special column opposite the price charged and initialed by the assistant. Or, if neither of these methods is used, the name and price of the goods sold may be placed on a special slip and entered at the end of each day's business, the commission being generally paid monthly by the larger firms. As a rule, the bonus is given on sales of one's own proprietaries—*c.g.*, suppose we are running a line of cod-liver oil emulsion at 10½d., 1s. 6d., and 2s. 9d., a bonus of a halfpenny, one penny, and twopence respectively on each sale might be given. By this means the assistant is not only anxious to sell that particular line, but also as large a size as possible. A few 'patents' that yield a good margin may be added to the lists, but as a rule it is only possible to do so on the larger sizes. The general plan to be adopted should be to increase the percentage somewhat on the higher-priced articles that require more pushfulness in selling. This principle is applied to sundries—for instance, an enema sold at 2s. 6d. or under has nothing attached to it, but the 3s. 6d. one leaves the seller one penny the richer, and one at 4s. 6d. twopence. Dispensing is not, as a rule, brought under this plan, but I remember one of our smaller companies giving 5 per cent. on the amount of dispensing done to the men who did it, so that they might not feel aggrieved at the exclusion from the sales-counter. The only effect of this was that the customer was recommended to take a larger size than what was originally prescribed, in order to increase the turnover, and this was not always in the best interest of the patient. The average amount earned by country assistants in the larger stores varies from 5s. to 10s. per week; in exceptional cases of good shops or of a rather selfish manager who monopolises the best customers, 15s. to 1l. may be earned. Commissions certainly have the advantage of making the assistants keener and more anxious to serve as many customers as possible. The disadvantages, however, are many. Within reasonable limits the interests of the pharmacist and the purchaser are identical, and a man who enters a shop wanting to buy a box of Smith's pills, and is either cajoled or bullied (I have seen both methods used) into buying a box of Jones's, will probably avoid that shop in future. With the larger companies, employing large numbers of assistants, some form of stimulus is undoubtedly useful, but with the ordinary pharmacist, whose assistants do their work under his own eye, more general methods will be found advantageous. Giving the assistant the impression that he is your own equal is an earlier stage of development and letting his ideas as to increasing sales have your consideration will do wonders; and some extra remuneration at either the summer holidays or at Christmas will secure their full equivalent in legal zeal and energy, without the danger of offending the customer with undue pressure to buy 'our own preparation.'"

"Total Extractive."

I venture to suggest that in the admirable annual reports which some wholesale houses issue from their analytical laboratories a more definite term than "Total extractive" should be used when referring to galenicals. "Total extractive" in its proper sense would include all volatile substances, but these do not appear in the residue after evaporation on a water-bath. Examples of which is meant are such tinctures as asafetida, cubeb, and the compound tincture of benzoin. It is desirable to give another name, and what would be better than "Non-volatile residue"? "Total solids" would not always be suitable, for some preparations contain glycerin, more or less; while cubeb leaves its oleo-resin, which is not quite a solid, nor is it the total extractive. Again, ammoniated tincture of quinine leaves a non-volatile residue, but the "Reports" do not include this figure, although it is generally known that 10 c.c. of the carefully made tincture would leave 0.17 to 0.18 gram of non-volatile residue on evaporation over a water-bath. It might be readily conceded that this would not constitute much of a test for the preparation, but do similar figures for the other preparations?—*Abel Scholar.*

Are We Progressing?

Historicus (174/10) writes: Fifty years have now run their round since I put on the white apron, sign and seal of my apprenticeship to the art and mystery of the chemist and druggist. That was not a proud moment in my life, for the trade was none of my choosing, and did not answer my expectations. And if I were asked what I have done in it, I am afraid the only answer would be that of the man who was asked what part he had played in the French Revolution: "I have survived." To the question, "Is the trade less or more prosperous now than it was then?" I should scarcely know what to reply. It is in many respects carried on under easier conditions; for though competition is keener, hours are shorter, holidays more frequent, and assistants both better qualified and better paid. Whether masters make more, I doubt. Upon the whole I should say that the greatest change that has taken place is in the character of the average pharmacist. He is a better business man; his technical education has greatly improved; but his chief gain is in professional honour, or, if you like, common honesty. I do not mean that he was formerly altogether a dishonest man, but he was much less careful of the quality and purity of his drugs, much more casual in his methods, and more given to little divagations from the strict line of rectitude. This was no doubt largely owing to his comparative want of scientific education. The pharmacist of to-day seems to me much superior in these respects to his predecessor of fifty years ago.

Legal Queries.

Before writing about your difficulty consult "The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary," 1913, pp. 211-242 and pp. 457-459, where most legal difficulties are anticipated.

D. T. E. (221/50).—QUININE WINE.—Your label does not conform with the Revenue requirements in so far as the dose exceeds that of the British Pharmacopoeia, and the word "Dose" is not prominently printed upon it. See *C. & D.*, December 21, 1912, index folio 918.

W. A. R. (204/54) asks what will be the expense, including legal costs, of PAYING OFF A MORTGAGE for 200*l*. Must the expenses be paid by the vendor (mortgagee) or by the purchaser (mortgagor)? [The expenses in a simple case should be between 3*l*. and 4*l*., and must be paid by the purchaser (mortgagor).]

Golist (223/33).—LIMITED COMPANY'S SUPERINTENDENT.—It is specially provided in the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1908, that the superintendent of a limited company shall not act in that capacity to more than one company. There is nothing in the Act to prevent the superintendent being a retail chemist, carrying on business of his own independently, provided a qualified chemist is the manager of the company's business. (2) SHOPS ACT CLOSING ORDER.—We dealt fully in our issue of February 1 with the position of chemists in places where an order has been obtained under Section 4 of the Shops Act, and must refer you to that issue.

Alpha (213/32).—DIVISION OF PROPERTY.—A woman who is the mother of three children by a deceased husband is now married to a man who has one daughter. The woman is insured for 500*l*. and owns two houses worth about 500*l*.

If the woman should die without having made a will, how will this property be divided by law? [If the woman dies intestate, leaving the relations specified, the insurance money, if the policy is in her own name, will go to her husband, and the houses will go to him also if they are leasehold. If the houses are freehold they will go to her eldest son, or, if she has no son, to her own daughters in equal shares.]

T. W. J. (205/3).—A. and B. own ADJOINING HOUSES. B. has demolished his house and left the gable end of A.'s house in a dilapidated, dangerous, and leaky condition. Must A. get an order from the Court to compel B. to make good the damage; or can he trespass on B.'s land and do the work himself and afterwards sue B. for the cost; or are A. and B. jointly liable? [In our opinion B. is liable for the damage done to A.'s house. A. should give notice to B. of the damage, calling upon him to repair it within a reasonable time, and, if B. fails to comply, A. should bring an action against him. The Court will probably award A. damages and directly or indirectly compel B. to repair A.'s house. We cannot advise A. to trespass on B.'s land in order to effect the repairs himself.]

Miscellaneous Inquiries.

We do not as a rule repeat information which has been given in this section during the past twelve months, as it occupies space which can be more profitably utilised for other information. In such cases the numbers are mentioned, and if querists cannot refer to these they may obtain the numbers from the "C. & D." Office at the published prices, usually 6d.

We do not undertake to analyse and report upon proprietary articles, and when samples are sent particulars should be supplied to us as to their origin, what they are, what they are used for and how.

Oleaceus (200/21).—MISCIBLE OILS.—You do not say for what purpose the emulsified oils are required. We may perhaps be able to refer you to a process if we know the kind of miscible oil to which you refer.

E. A. Q. (204/51).—FILTER-PAPER PURIFICATION.—Filter-paper is treated with hydrochloric and hydrofluoric acid in the pulp stage. We have not been able to find details of the strength of acid employed, but on account of the small amount of impurities to be removed we should imagine that only weak solutions are used. The subsequent washing is naturally of great importance, not only in regard to the removal of traces of acids, but in order that lime-salts are not reintroduced by the employment of hard water. We will endeavour to find further information on the subject.

J. E. C. (201/62).—BOOKS ON DENTISTRY.—See *C. & D.*, September 21, 1912, index folio 494.

H. L. (206/15).—LETHAL CHAMBER FOR ANIMALS.—Descriptions are given in "Veterinary Counter-Practice" of two kinds of boxes or chambers for use in poisoning animals. The Council of Justice to Animals, 12 Old Burlington Street, London, W., supply two sizes of lethal boxes for the purpose. (See *C. & D.*, January 13, 1912, index folio 68.)

N. L. (207/40).—STAINING CELLULOID.—Aniline dyes are employed for this purpose, the dye being dissolved in alcohol and the celluloid soaked in the solution. For blue, Lyon's blue, royal blue, or glacier blue is employed; for rose, rose Bengal or cyanosine O. You must not expect surface staining to yield as permanent results as when the celluloid is coloured throughout in the process of manufacture.

M. D. M. (202/9).—For recipes for straw-hat dyes and dry-shampoo powder refer to index to last volume of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.

J. E. C. (208/41).—FLESH-REDUCING TABLETS.—You omit to tell us the source of the sample you send. If they are proprietary we cannot undertake to analyse them, and we might add that an analysis would not necessarily reveal whether "they are dangerous to health."

Menthol (196/45).—MENTHOL SNUFF.—There are eleven recipes for this in "Pharmaceutical Formulas." A study of these would enable you to devise a formula such as you desire.

H. & Co. (209/3).—TOILET-CREAM.—We think the characteristic appearance and the low melting-point of the sample of toilet-cream you send are due to the use of coco-nut oil. Will you conduct a few experiments with this substance in fair proportion?

